THE

American Relief Clearing House

ITS WORK IN THE GREAT WAR

By

PERCY MITCHELL

(Late Director-General of the "New York Herald", Paris)

With Foreword by **M. RAYMOND POINCARÉ**

ILLUSTRATED

Herbert Clarke, 338, Rue Saint-Honoré, Paris

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To
The American People
is dedicated
this short record
of a
Great Work.

940.4
A51m

MINISTÈRE
des
AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

CABINET DU MINISTRE

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Paris, le 6 Novembre 1922

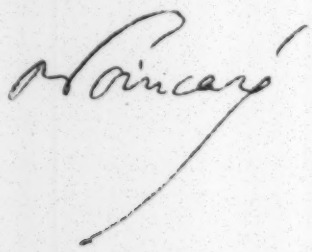
Cher Monsieur Percy Mitchell,

*Je suis confus de vous avoir aussi longtemps fait attendre les quelques lignes que je vous avais promises pour présenter aux lecteurs l'excellent livre consacré à l'œuvre de l'*AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE. *Mes minutes sont comptées en ce moment et je ne suis pas tout à fait responsable du retard que j'ai mis à vous répondre. Bien que je connusse très bien par moi-même les magnifiques services qu'a rendus l'*AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *j'ai tenu à en relire l'émouvant exposé dans l'ouvrage dont vous m'aviez envoyé les épreuves. Cette lecture a réveillé en moi de nombreux et pathétiques souvenirs. Je me suis rappelé bien des initiatives et des générosités dont j'avais été, comme Président de la République, le témoin émerveillé. Jamais la France n'oubliera les libéralités qu'elle a reçues, aux heures sombres de la guerre, d'une multitude d'amis américains. La croisade de la Charité avait devancé la croisade militaire : la bonté était venue à notre aide avant même que naquît entre nous la fraternité d'armes. Dès les premiers jours des hostilités, les Etats-Unis s'étaient tournés spontanément vers la France attaquée et envahie, et jamais, de mémoire d'homme, ne s'était produit dans le monde un tel élan de sympathie et de solidarité. Ni la distance, ni les flots, n'avaient empêché nos deux peuples de se sentir étroitement rapprochés par le cœur. Nos soldats blessés, nos veuves et nos orphelins de guerre, nos malheureux compatriotes chassés par l'invasion et réfugiés dans les contrées qu'elle avait épargnées, avaient immédiatement senti les bienfaits de cette union sentimentale. Le petit volume que je recommande à l'attention publique contient, sur le détail de ces largesses, des indications précieuses et des statistiques éloquentes. Mais, sous la froideur des chiffres, notre mémoire retrouve sans peine toute la chaleur et toute l'activité de l'infatigable affec-*

*tion qui nous a été témoignée. L'*AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE *a été vraiment digne de son illustre fondateur, M. Myron T. Herrick, qui nous a donné, en* 1914, *des preuves si éclatantes de son amitié pour la France et qui, même lorsqu'il s'est trouvé momentanément éloigné de nous, ne nous a jamais négligés. Il a été remarquablement secondé, dans la noble mission qu'il avait assumée, par un groupe d'Américains qui résident à Paris et qui y ont conquis droit de cité, les Harjes, les Beatty, les Stillman, les Tuck, les Barbour.*

Par une ingénieuse combinaison, le CLEARING HOUSE de *Paris était relié à une institution similaire, établie à New-York et fondée, elle aussi, par M. Herrick. Celle-ci mobilisait et recrutait les secours ; celle-là les recevait et les distribuait ; et plus les besoins augmentaient, plus la source semblait inépuisable. Des vêtements, du linge, des denrées alimentaires, des appareils pour les mutilés, de l'or et de l'argent traversaient constamment l'Atlantique et la charité américaine prenait chaque jour des formes nouvelles, toujours plus charmantes et plus ingénieuses. C'est ainsi qu'à lui seul le* CLEARING HOUSE *a introduit et réparti en France une somme supérieure à quatre-vingt-six millions : quatre-vingt six millions qu'avaient amassés par leur travail, là-bas, en Amérique, des hommes et des femmes qui n'étaient pas tous venus en Europe, qui n'avaient pas tous voyagé en France, dont beaucoup ne connaissaient Paris que de nom, mais qui, tout de même, savaient qu'une guerre inique avait été déclarée à un pays pacifique, qui voyaient de loin un peuple libre menacé dans son existence par un Empire de proie, et qui voulaient porter secours au malheur et au bon droit. Non, non, jamais la France n'aura l'ingratitude d'oublier tout cela.*

Croyez, cher Monsieur, à mes sentiments dévoués.



(TRANSLATION)

I am sorry to have kept you waiting so long for the introduction which I promised you for the excellent book on the work of THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE. *My time is limited at present, so I am not entirely responsible for the delay. Although I knew intimately from personal experience the magnificent services rendered by the* AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *I wanted to re-read the affecting account given in the book of which you sent me the proofs. It has revived for me many pathetic remembrances, and recalled numerous generous initiatives of which, as President of the Republic, I was an amazed witness. Never will France forget the bounties she received in the gloomy hours of war from a multitude of American friends. The crusade of Charity preceded the military crusade; benevolence came to our aid even before the birth of our brotherhood of arms. In the first days of hostilities, the United States turned spontaneously towards France, attacked and invaded: and never in the world, within memory of man, was there such an outflow of sympathy and solidarity. Neither distance nor the ocean could prevent the hearts of our two peoples from feeling closely drawn together. Our wounded soldiers, the widows and orphans, our hapless countrymen driven out by the invasion and seeking refuge in the uninvaded regions, felt the immediate benefits of this soul-union. The little volume, which I recommend to public attention, contains, as regards details of this largess, valuable indications and eloquent statistics. But, underlying cold figures, our memory easily discerns the warmth and activity of the indefatigable affection evidenced for us. The* AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE *was fully worthy of its illustrious founder, Mr. Myron T. Herrick, who gave us, in* 1914, *such striking proof of his friendship for France, and who, even when temporarily absent, never*

lost sight of us. In the noble mission he had taken up, he was remarkably seconded by a group of Americans, by Mr. Harjes, for instance, Mr. Beatty, the late Mr. Stillman, Mr. Tuck, Mr. Barbour, Americans who, residing in Paris, have earned for themselves the freedom of the city.

By an ingenious combination, the CLEARING HOUSE *of Paris was linked to a similar organization with headquarters in New York, founded also by Mr. Herrick. This latter mobilized and raised relief; while the former received and distributed it. The more necessities increased, the more inexhaustible seemed the sources of supply. Clothing, linen, food, material aid for the maimed, funds, flowed uninterruptedly across the ocean; and American charity constantly assumed forms ever new, ever more ingenious, and ever more touching. The* CLEARING HOUSE *alone distributed in France more than eighty-six millions of francs: eighty-six millions contributed over there, in America, by the work of men and women not all of whom had seen Europe; not all had travelled in France; many knew Paris only by name. But all, nevertheless, knew that an iniquitous war had been declared on a peaceful country; from afar all saw that the existence of a free people was threatened by a predatory Empire; and all felt the impulse to help Right and succour the unfortunate.*

Never, never will France have the ingratitude to forget that.

Raymond POINCARÉ.

AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

Be ye charitable with discernment

(St. John Chrysostom).

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Mr. H. H. Harjes,
President of the A.R.C.H.

(Photo Boissonas et Taponier.)

CHAPTER I.

THE CITY OF REFUGE

I do set my bow in the cloud.
(GENESIS).

In the Great War, America's crusade of compassion was not less efficacious than her military crusade. The former tempered suffering in France and Belgium; in Serbia, Montenegro, Italy, Russia, Roumania, Poland; the latter, from the outset, made the ultimate victory of the Allied nations an absolute certainty. Thanks to the one, a generous measure of aid and encouragement was infused into the early phases of the war: thanks to the other, its closing phase was the triumph of justice. A wave of reconstructive sympathy from the West offset to a notable extent the wave of destruction from the east. As in 1776, La Fayette's heart "enlisted," to use his own word, on the American side, America's heart enlisted in 1914 on the side of the victims of "frightfulness."

The sympathy was shown from the very beginning. The first pitched battle of the war on the Franco-Belgian front, the Battle of Charleroi-Mons, was fought on August 21-24. About that date, a steamer from New York unloaded on the wharves at Havre a score or more of big packing-cases addressed:

FRENCH ARMY
HAVRE
FRANCE.

They contained surgical and medicinal supplies sent by American sympathizers with the French and the French cause. To arrive so soon they must have been despatched immediately after Germany's aggression on France and

Belgium. They were the first-fruits of American pity for the victims of a war that Prussia had imposed on Europe. They were also forerunners. Thereafter, almost every vessel arriving from the United States brought to France, in constantly and rapidly increasing volume, similar shipments of relief material. M. Alfred Dumaine, French Ambassador in Vienna at the outbreak of the war, has eloquently expressed the gratitude of the French nation for America's work of solidarity. "*A heart-stirring and wonderful history that is yet to be written,*" he said in an article on the war, "*will deal with the charitable efforts made to mitigate the suffering caused by the world-conflict. It will comprise many chapters of an infinite variety; and its most laudatory pages will be devoted to the delicate and inexhaustible generosity of our American friends.*"

In addition to being a gage of American sympathy, that first consignment of relief material was the germ of THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, of which the story is told in the following pages.

What the CLEARING HOUSE was has been admirably outlined by M. Alexandre Millerand, the eminent statesman who is now (1922) President of the French Republic. Speaking in the Sorbonne on November 23rd, 1916, M. Millerand said: "The group that best synthesizes America's charitable work *and constitutes its very nucleus* is THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE."

The statement is both a precise definition and a certificate of success. The CLEARING HOUSE was in sober truth the heart of America's magnificent services to war-sufferers in France and the countries allied with France. Without the CLEARING HOUSE, American charity would have been seriously hampered. It would have lacked the means indispensible to ensure prompt and effective action.

What took place in the opening weeks of the war bears out that statement. Following the cases of relief supplies just referred to, others began to pour into Havre and Bordeaux by the score. They, also, were addressed in a manner very significant of the senders' sentiments: usually to the French Army; often to the French Government; a great many to the American Embassy; others to the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris or to individual business firms. The two first addresses are about as vague

as comprehensiveness can make them. The others are more definite. But in the circumstances, that was no great practical gain. Neither the Embassy nor the Chamber of Commerce had a staff at Havre or Bordeaux, or even in Paris, free to receive shipments of relief supplies, free to sort, re-pack and forward to centres of distress the huge cases that were arriving in increasing number. The French Army might be, indeed was, sorely in need of the material from the United States. The French Government might know, the American Embassy might learn, just where that material would render the greatest service. But who was to deal with it? At that critical moment — August-September — M. Viviani, then President of the Ministerial Council; M. Millerand, then Minister of War; the Hon. Myron T. Herrick, the American Ambassador, were grappling with vast problems of vital importance to the interests in their charge. Every department of the public services having been "combed out" by the mobilization, was under-manned, was overwhelmed by the work already in hand. To cope with and utilize American succour some special machinery had to be constructed. For none existed.

The machinery was constructed; and on the most practical, efficient, business-like principles. Acting with the approbation of the United States Government and of the French Government, Mr. Herrick took the first steps that led to the formation of an organization to receive — indeed to call forth — relief supplies and see to their distribution wherever the distress signal might be run up. The new body was THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE. But that name was remembered in official correspondence only, or at formal ceremonies. In practice it was commonly shortened to "Archouse," or the "Arch."

What happy symbolism there is in that colloquial title! "*I tlo set My bow in the cloud.*" Was not the ARCH that emblematic bow of hope set in the cloud of war, a sign that a stricken world should yet be saved? Was it not a very real bridge spanning the Atlantic, linking sympathetic America to war-torn France and her Allies? Across it poured uninterruptedly, from the early days of the war, a supply of relief material, immense in quantity, bewildering in variety, and representing, merely to the date of America's entry into the war, a pecuniary value of more

than eighty-six million francs. That simple record is an enduring monument to the builders of the " A.R.C.H., " the Arch of Humanity.

How extensive was the need of relief supplies and a central agency to ensure their expeditious distribution, was seen in Paris towards the close of August, 1914. The mobilization, though not wholly unprepared for after Austria's ultimatum to Serbia, was, nevertheless, a disorganizing factor in every department of life. But the situation was faced with fortitude and confidence. Everyone braced himself for the struggle. Everyone *knew* it would be fierce. But all *believed* it would be short. That was the " Great Illusion, " the real one. Kitchener's grim allusion to a war of " at least three years, " seemed to the majority merely a soldier's jest. If seriously meant, it revealed simply that Lord Kitchener knew nothing of economics. How could a long war be financed? Experts, from Ivan de Bloch onward, had proven, with figures to boot, that to be a sheer impossibility. Hence, while the early days of August were, in civilian life, days of radical re-organization, the measures taken were in the main of a provisional nature, stop-gaps " for the duration of the war, " that is, for a few weeks! Having thus safeguarded the present and the future, all went about their business, serious but unafraid. What cause was there for uneasiness? The *communiqués* were reserved but not pessimistic : the enemy, undoubtedly, was being held!

With the arrival of the first refugees from the north came awakening both to the imminence of danger and the inadequacy of then existing preparations to deal with the effects of a great war. Day by day, as August drew to its close, the influx grew. The trains came in overpacked with fugitives from what later was only too literally " the area of devastation. " The roads leading southwards to the capital seethed with a veritable phantasmagoria of human misery, — fugitives fleeing before the Red Terror : women crazed by grief over the disappearance of little ones torn from their side in the frenzied exodus, children wailing for lost parents, the aged, the infirm, the ailing ; all homeless ; all foodless, destitute, sinking with weariness. For all, Paris, the City of Joy, had become the City of Refuge, a haven of safety.

The heart of Paris, as always, reacted immediately and compassionately to the appeal. Little preparation had been made for that kind of an invasion. But the initiative of the people is equal to every emergency. Shelter for refugees was provided in the Salle Wagram, the Cirque de Paris, the St. Sulpice Seminary, and a number of cinema theatres. Food in abundance was forthcoming; and clothing. Only those who know "the people" of Paris can fully realize the unaffected, cordial sympathy that breathed in the help so readily proffered. Families in that troubled moment went gladly without milk so that "*les pauvres petiots*," the "little tots," from the invaded zone might not want. The police of the 6th and 14th *arrondissements*, (wards) pooled their ready cash to help the refugees housed in the big St. Sulpice Seminary and spent part of their time off-duty renovating the building and making it comfortable. The authorities did all they could. But it was individual effort, the effort of "the people," so under-esteemed, that saved the situation.

* * *

Yes, the need for relief supplies was great. And it was just about this time that they began to arrive from American well-wishers. Paris, the City of Refuge, was about to become the City of Rescue. After the invasion of France by the enemy, and the invasion of Paris by fugitives, a third invasion had begun: the invasion of succour. It quickly attained proportions that rendered essential a central executive power and distribution equipment. In the transport of the immense armies for modern warfare, *gares régulatrices* — "Clearing" or "Regulating" stations — are created at convenient junctions on the main lines of railway communications. There, troops and men on leave, coming from various directions, assemble to be despatched, "cleared," to their destinations. What a *gare régulatrice* is to a fighting force, THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE was to the forces of Mercy.

CHAPTER II.

BRINGING ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

The object is... the greatest good
of the greatest number.

(EMERSON).

It was Mr. Myron T. Herrick who, foreseeing the advantages of a "clearing-house," indeed its necessity, took the initiative in creating one.

The Ambassador's paramount object was of course to protect the interests of the United States. The field of international diplomacy in 1914 was honeycombed with pitfalls. Officially, that is to say, governmentally, America was neutral. But American sentiment as a whole was ranged behind France and Belgium. Dr. Morton Prince, in presenting to President Poincaré a Message signed by 500 Americans of prominence in science, law, art, industry and commerce, put the facts in a single sentence: "*Although our Government is neutral,*" he said, "*Americans are not compelled to be neutral; do not wish to be neutral; are not neutral.*" That is the unvarnished truth. Their sense of justice was revolted by the war as an act of aggression; their sympathies were with its victims. This is proved by the movement to help France and Belgium. In the first eighteen months of the war, Americans contributed aid (inclusive of that sent through the CLEARING HOUSE) valued at more than 144 million of francs. Of that total, nearly 127 millions (88 %), was subscribed *specifically* for the Allies. A popular channel for the transmission of relief material being, as already observed, the American Embassy in Paris, the movement of sympathy for France and Belgium, if given official status through official participation, might conceivably become a source of embarrassment for the United States. The frontiers of neutrality are fluid. They cannot be charted with rigorous accuracy.

The cooperation of Embassy officials in a work that, bluntly speaking, was a condemnation, or at least a criticism, of Germany might be interpreted as incompatible with a nice sense of neutrality. In any case, the Embassy was not equipped to receive, overhaul, distribute, and render account for the tons of supplies that an increasing multitude of relief associations in the United States was beginning, towards the close of 1914, to ship to France for Franco-Belgian hospitals, ambulances, and institutions for the wounded; for refugees, orphans, and war-victims generally. In the interest of all — Government, donors and beneficiaries alike — it was more than politic, it was imperative, that a competent body, distinct from the Embassy, should centralize and be responsible for this American work of rescue.

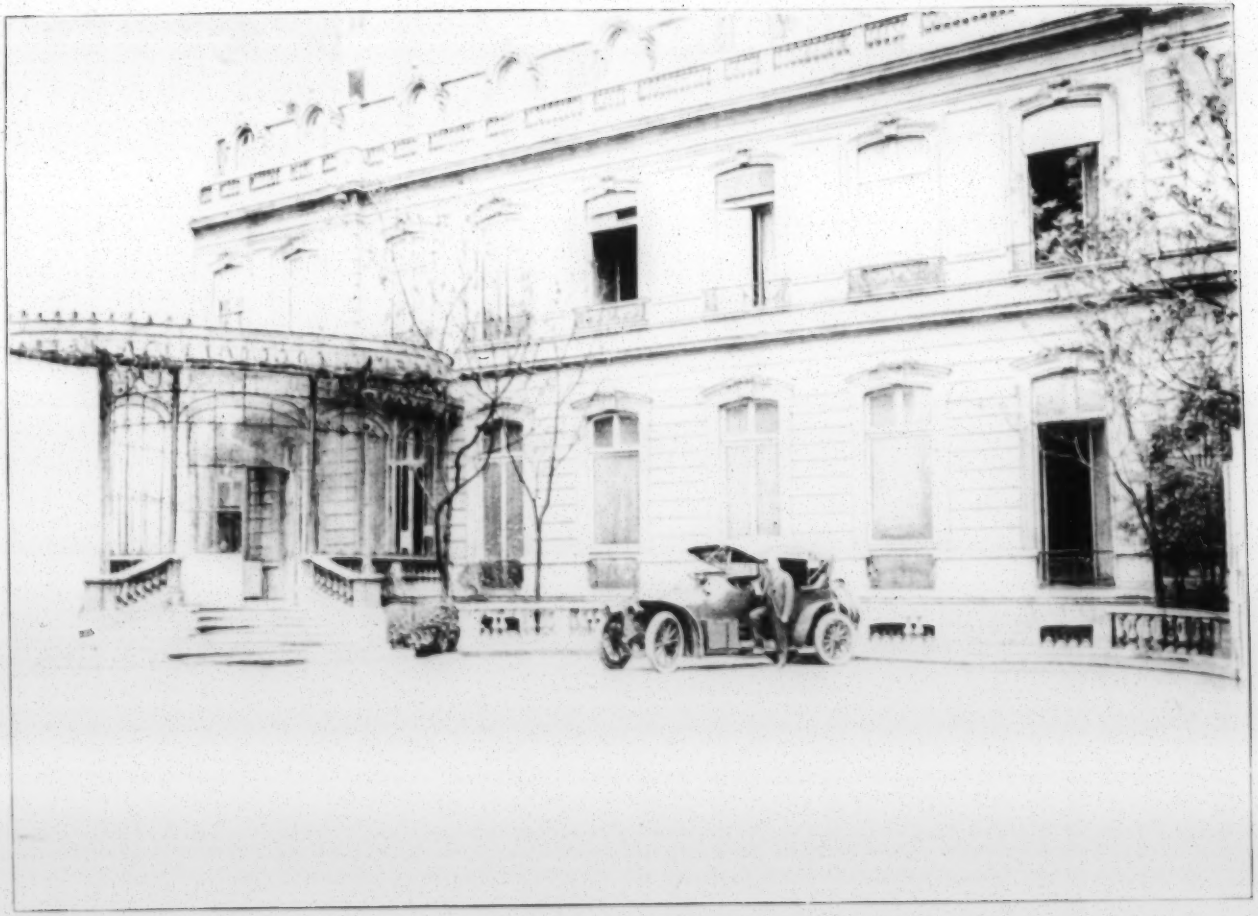
In addition, a "clearing-house," by facilitating that work, would tend to develop it and thus be of material benefit to France. The argument was one to appeal potently to the sympathies of Mr. Herrick. He had never concealed, far from it, his warm regard for the French and his admiration for their greatness in all departments of human activity. He had devoted himself in his official functions to the task, wholly congenial to him, of maintaining and adding to the traditional friendly ties between France and the United States. He had been completely successful. No American Ambassador ever enjoyed so unreservedly the confidence of the French people or was held in such affection; none ever wielded so great a moral authority in the exercise of his mission. Thanks to this unique position, he was, from the beginning of the war, a pillar of strength for his Government and for the one to which he was accredited. In the nerve-testing days just before the Battle of the Marne, his decision to remain in Paris was a stimulus to the French and contributed powerfully to reassure foreign opinion. Being in favour of the American relief movement, he was naturally anxious to further its legitimate development. He had, in short, a two-fold reason for advocating the creation of a "clearing-house:" it would serve America; it would help France. Either argument, taken alone, would have caused Mr. Herrick to regard a proposition favourably: united, they were irresistible. And shortly before handing over the Embassy to his successor, he broached the idea of a

" clearing-house " to a number of influential friends, aroused their interest in it, got the assurance of their support, and launched the work of realization.

* * *

The personal elements were ready to hand in a Committee which the American Ambassador had called into being on the first day of the French mobilization. It was to co-operate with him in advising Americans in Paris regarding the rapidly changing situation and giving them such information as might be procurable and useful. Even at that incipient stage of the war the Ambassador struck a note of uplifting optimism, It rings out cheeringly in the statement issued to announce the formation of the Committee: " *We think there is no cause for alarm on the part of those who remain in the city.* " The Committee met officially every afternoon at four o'clock in the reception rooms of the American Embassy, 5, Rue François I. But it was virtually in session permanently; for groups of the members were at the Embassy in turn throughout the day. The Honorary President was, of course, Mr. Herrick ; the Chairman, Mr. Elbert H. Gary, President of the United States Steel Corporation ; the Honorary Secretary, Mr. H. H. Harjes, Director of the Morgan, Harjes and Company bank ; and the Committee members were : Mr. Laurence V. Benét, Mr. W. S. Dalliba, Mr. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Mr. Frederic Coudert, Mr. Chauncey M. Depew, Mr. James Deering, Colonel William Jay, Mr. F. B. Kellog, Mr. M. Percy Peixotto, Mr. Henry S. Priest, Mr. Valentin Blacque.

How quickly Mr. Herrick had met the situation and foreseen the means necessary to cope with it, is evidenced in the fact that his measures were already working when a movement was started to put similar measures into operation. His Committee was busy at the Embassy issuing nationality certificates, arranging for advances of funds on letters of credit, Travellers' cheques, or personal security, and dealing with transportation problems, before a " mass meeting " was convened at the Grand Hotel by tourists zealous for the common-weal " *to consider what action should be taken to ensure immediate relief for American citizens from the United States Government.* " When that



HEADQUARTERS OF THE A.R.C.H.
6, Rue François 1er.

Donated for the duration of the War by the owner, Comte Gerard de Ganay.

meeting took place (on August 3) the immediate needs of some 3,000 citizens had received attention from the Committee at the American Embassy ; about 2,000 had already been supplied with papers of nationality, a system of furnishing indispensable funds had been perfected, and everything feasible had been done to procure without any avoidable delay means of transport for all anxious to return to America. So manifestly were Mr. Herrick and the Committee doing all that it was possible to do that the *New York Herald* drily commented on the inconvenience of having " too much Committee. " " *There is already,* " it said, " *one Committee in Paris working under the guidance of the American Ambassador to relieve the situation of the many Americans in Europe. This body is doing everything that is practicable and is working actively and effectively. Instead, therefore, of dividing their efforts, Americans in Paris would do better to unite and co-operate with the* (existing) *Committee.* "

* * *

It was to this body that Mr. Herrick turned when, the first requirements of the crisis having been met, he took in hand the systematization and co-ordination of " war relief." It was decided to convene an informal meeting of Americans in Paris to discuss the matter. The meeting was held about the middle of November, 1914, at the American Embassy, 5, Rue François I. Those present included : Mr. H. Herman Harjes ; Professor J. Mark Baldwin, of Johns Hopkins and Princeton Universities, a Corresponding Member of the Institut de France, and a sturdy champion of France's right in the war ; Mr. Whitney Warren, another whole-hearted friend of France and a tireless worker in behalf of Latin culture as opposed to Germanic " Kultur ;" Mr. James Hazen Hyde, to whom is due, among other fruitful initiatives to cement Franco-American amity, the exchange professorships which have helped enormously to promote closer intellectual relations between the two peoples ; Rev. Dr. Samuel Newell Watson, Rector of the American Church of the Holy Trinity ; Mr. M. Percy Peixotto, European representative of the American International Corporation, and, during two years of the war, President of the American Chamber of Commerce, Paris ;

Mr. Elmer Roberts, Director in France of the Associated Press of America ; Mr. W. T. Dannat, Mr. Walter Gay, and Mr. Ridgway Knight, artists ; Mr. C. Inman Barnard and Mr. Henry Cachard, lawyers ; Mr. Edward Tuck, philanthropist and Mæcenas of the American colony in Paris ; Mr. J. Ridgeley Carter, former American Minister in the Balkans ; Mr. Hugh Reid Griffin, then 1st Vice-President of the American Chamber of Commerce ; Mr. Charly Knight, architect ; Mr. George Munroe, banker ; Mr. Junius S. Morgan ; Mr. W. S. Hilles, Mr. L. V. Twyeffort, Mr. Irving G. Will, Mr. George R. Ostheimer, Mr. William S. Hogan, merchants ; Duc de Loubat ; Mr. P. Lorillard Ronalds ; Mr. Francis B. Riggs ; Mr. Charles Carroll of Carrollton ; Mr. Charles R. Scott. A notable and representative gathering.

Mr. Herrick presided and, in his opening remarks, outlined the question before the meeting. America, he said in substance, was making a powerful effort to help her sister-Republic, France. As a matter of justice and humanity the movement should be encouraged and stimulated. That could best be done by expediting the distribution of the relief supplies received from the United States. But to ensure a rapid service, some medium of reception, some organization to facilitate compliance with Customs formalities, was essential. Without one, delay was inevitable and loss possible : non-observance, owing to ignorance, of French import regulations had resulted in the sending back of certain articles ; other gifts had gone astray through inaccuracy of address or its insufficiency. Order must be brought out of the chaos produced by the unsystematized shipment to France of American relief supplies. The task was too big and too delicate to be grappled with by any individual. United action was indispensible if friction and suspicion were to be avoided. The relief movement must be protected from possible abuses or dishonesty. The wellspring of American charity would dry up if there were any whisper that contributions of money or goods were being diverted from their real destination. The movement must be like Caesar's wife : above suspicion. The distribution of the aid sent from America must be under the control of a central organization, approved by the Embassy and empowered to see to the faithful carrying out of the intentions of charitable

America. Those engaged in France in war relief work would welcome such a guaranty of their trustworthiness and would gladly comply with all regulations necessary to prevent swindling or waste. And if any individuals or groups refused to comply with them and render account for the material received, they would by that refusal shake public confidence in their *bona fides*.

Mr. Herrick opined that the most effective safeguard and collaborator in the relief movement would be an institution corresponding in charitable work to a " clearing house " in banking. And he proposed the creation of a " clearing house " for relief material. He even recommended that it be called the " Clearing House, " for he had thought out every detail of his project, down to the title of the organization. He declared it would find plenty of work to do. The munitions of relief were arriving in greater and greater abundance. All that was necessary to make the proposed " clearing-house " a success was the co-operation in Paris of business ability and public spirit. In both those respects the American colony was rich ; witness the skill, ingenuity and self-abnegation that had presided over the organization and marked the continued operation of a host of American relief associations founded in and around Paris since the beginning of the war.

Mr. Herrick's appeal hit the mark. After a searching discussion his solution was agreed to be the most practicable ; and it was decided to form a volunteer body to be called THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE. Its work, as finally settled, was :

I. *To " clear " all relief supplies consigned through it to particular Societies ;*

II. *To receive and distribute relief supplies where most needed ;*

III. *To receive funds for the purchase of supplies, whether with or without specific instructions as to distribution ;*

IV. *To furnish those services, free of any expense, to all donors.*

* * *

The principle having been endorsed and the enterprise

launched, the work of practical construction was attacked and gratifying progress made in frequent meetings held between November 20 and the end of 1914. Offices were established at 5, Rue François I, vacated by the American Embassy. The owner, Comte Gérard de Ganay, of American descent on the maternal side, placed the building, rent and taxes free, at the disposal of the A.R.C.H. in gratitude for American sympathy with his country and the philanthropic work the CLEARING HOUSE had in view. The Duchesse de Talleyrand — *née* Gould — provided, also gratuitously, as warehouse a commodious edifice at 25, Rue Pierre Charron (now Avenue Pierre I de Serbie), built by the generosity of Mme. de Talleyrand after the fire that destroyed the Bazar de la Charité, and caused appalling loss of life, in 1897.

At a meeting on December 1st, Mr. Herrick, by unanimous vote, was elected Honorary President of the A.R.C.H. He had left Paris on November 28th to return to the United States; and was notified by cablegram of his election. In the same despatch it was suggested that the CLEARING HOUSE be made the official representative of the various American relief organizations and that all goods sent from America should be consigned through it. In that suggestion is the germ of "THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES," formed later in New York to co-operate with the A.R.C.H. Mr. Robert Bacon also was elected Honorary President, or "Président d'honneur" as he is styled in the official minutes of the CLEARING HOUSE.

The selection of the other Board Officers was quickly made. It was obvious that the acting President would need to be a man of administrative experience and judgment, possessing a spirit of initiative nicely balanced by tact, and enjoying the confidence of a big circle of friends, both French and American. Hence, Mr. H. H. Harjes, possessing every one of those qualifications, was at once elected President.

His acceptance of the post was a guaranty of success and a sacrifice of self. In addition to being the Director of a bank extremely active in the war-finances of the Allies, Mr. Harjes was the official delegate in France of the American Red Cross and a founder and chief supporter of the

Motor Ambulance Sections which, by their services at the front from 1914 to the very end of the war, added a glorious page to the annals of American valour and altruism. His own share in the work is recorded in a French Army Order regarding his conduct in the field and conferring on him the *Croix de Guerre* :

> " HARJES (*Henry Herman*) ; *of the American Section, No.* 5 ; *Delegate of the American Red Cross ; founder and member of the American Ambulance Section, No.* 5. *When his group is in active and perilous service he is always present at the most exposed point, seeing to the execution of orders and contributing a valuable moral stimulus by his unfailing cheerfulness. During the attacks of March-December,* 1916, *and January,* 1917, *he particularly distinguished himself in a very exposed sector.* "

The Presidency of the CLEARING HOUSE represented further hard work for a man already fully occupied. One detail will make that fact very clear. In the first month of its existence, the organizing committee, with Mr. Harjes in the Chair, held fifteen important and protracted meetings : so protracted, that there is considerable significance, and a shade of resigned humour, in a decision, taken a little later and recorded in the minutes, to bring the meetings held in the evening to a close at eight o'clock " even if there is routine business still remaining. " The decision tells so eloquently a tale of prolonged conferences, evening after evening! And meetings formed but a small fraction of the members' labours.

They gave without stint of their energy, and time, and experience ; and of their money : for they contributed to a special fund for Maintenance, or operating expense. The financing of the CLEARING HOUSE will be dealt with later ; but it is opportune to mention here, at the very outset, a financial detail of importance : *the A.R.C.H. cost nothing whatever to those who utilized its services.* All the money received was spent solely, to the last cent, on relief. The person who gave any sum, big or little, has the satisfaction of knowing that it went in its entirety to those for whom it was given. This was so because the CLEARING HOUSE paid the whole of its operating expenses out of a separate fund subscribed for that very purpose. The cost works

out, from the inception of the CLEARING HOUSE to its withdrawal from activity, to a percentage of 1.02 of the total relief transactions in cash and material. But the expense of the small staff of salaried employees — clerks ; messengers ; chauffeurs ; porters and manual labour generally — should in fairness be classed as a species of annex to the relief account. This staff was mainly French ; the salaries, therefore, were just so much supplementary American aid to France. If that contention be admitted, the operating cost is much less than 1.02 %. But, in any case, the fact remains, and should be strongly emphasized, that subscriptions for relief suffered no diminution, either direct or indirect, for administration expenses : every contribution went *integrally* to those for whom the contributor destined it.

The other Board Officers elected in the period of construction were : Vice-President, Mr. Whitney Warren ; Treasurer, Mr. J. Ridgeley Carter ; Secretary, Mr. Charles Carroll of Carrollton. An Executive Committee comprised in the beginning : Mr. Harjes (Chairman), Mr. J. R. Carter, Rev. Dr. S. N. Watson, Mr. Whitney Warren, Mr. George Munroe, Mr. Peixotto, and Mr. Charles R. Scott, Honorary Secretary. Later, the following additional members were elected to it : Mr. Beatty, Mr. James R. Barbour, Mr. Hoff, Mr. Ralph Preston, Mr. Walter Abbott, Mr. James H. Hyde, and Mr. Randolph Mordecai, who succeeded Mr. Scott as Honorary Secretary, after having filled, for two years, the post of Assistant Secretary.

The Executive Committee was the responsible power in the A.R.C.H. It was the apex of the pyramid of organization. But the actual labour of receiving, classifying and dealing with gifts, whether in money or goods, was done through an Administrative Committee which, however, was not constituted until February 8th, 1915. Not that its necessity had only then become apparent. On the contrary ; in the very first days of the A.R.C.H. it was realized that what may be called the operative functions must be centralized in a small group under the guidance of a Director-General. Only so could promptitude and regularity be assured in the relief transactions. After careful research, the choice of the Executive Committee for a Director-General equal to the immense responsibilities of the post fell upon Mr. H. Oscar Beatty, a Californian ;

MR. H. OSCAR BEATTY,
Director-General of the A.R.C.H.

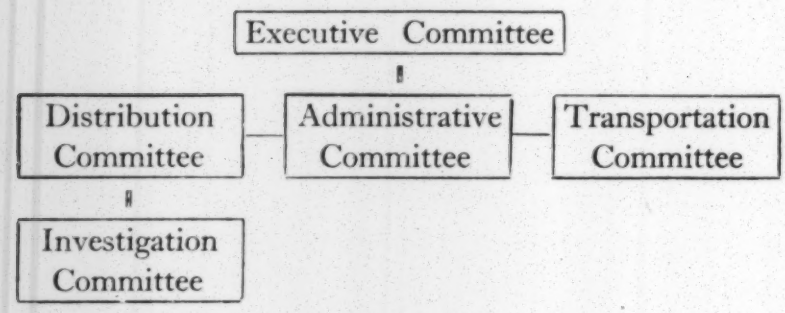
(Photo Emery, Paris.)

by profession a lawyer, only a little less at home in France than in the United States. Of his business genius the success of the A.R.C.H. is most convincing evidence. Mr. Beatty was in California when the CLEARING HOUSE was formed. But his participation was secured by cablegram and he arrived in Paris — where he had resided for some time — towards the end of January, after a useful halt in New York to thresh out the subject of mobilizing relief supplies and shipping them to the CLEARING HOUSE.

His arrival marks the beginning of a period of intense activity in the campaign to aid France and her allies. The organ of relief began in very earnest to relieve. The Administrative Committee, composed of the Director-General, the Honorary Secretary, and Mr. Ralph Preston, was given the fullest powers to carry out the work of the A.R.C.H. "*promptly, efficiently, and economically.*" It was to provide an irreproachable system of accounting for "*all moneys and supplies of whatever description that may be received for distribution, and show their ultimate disposition.*" It was to investigate demands for relief from "*individuals, Societies, hospitals, and localities; to estimate their needs and in ordinary cases to make prompt appropriation to satisfy the same.*" It was to record and tabulate information relative to conditions resulting from the development of the war, so far as they "*relate to France and her Allies, and to transmit such information to New York for use in the United States.*" It was, in short, instructed and empowered "*to do such things and take such measures as are best calculated to give effect to and accomplish the object for which this organization* (the A.R.C.H.) *was formed.*"

Working hand in hand with it was the Relief Committee or, as it was finally called, the Distribution Committee, of which Rev. Dr. Watson was Chairman. Its functions, complementary to those implied in its name, were to examine and report upon all demands for help. An Investigation Committee (Mr. Hoff, Chairman), and a Transportation Committee (Mr. Hugh Reid Griffin, Chairman) co-operated in the Distribution Committee's field of work. Together, they formed the vital organs of the A.R.C.H.

A Department Chart would be about as follows :



To complete this sketch of the organization measures, it is opportune to mention here that on April 20th, 1915, the A.R.C.H. filed in the State of New York, pursuant to the laws of that State a certificate of incorporation as a Charitable Association. The main reasons for the step were : to protect the members against the possible consequences of actions that might be brought against the CLEARING HOUSE under the Employers' Liability Act, of France ; and to provide a stable framework in view of probable continuance after the war. On Tuesday, September 21st, the original voluntary association left the stage and re-entered as " THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, INCORPORATED. " The change, organic from the legal standpoint, modified nothing in the work — except, perhaps, to stimulate the new-old members of the old-new organisation to still greater exertions in the dispensation of help.

Mr. Charles R. Scott,
Honorary Secretary, Executive Committee

CHAPTER III.

MOBILIZING RELIEF

E pluribus unum.

As finally constituted, the clearing-house mechanism was a twin-organization — one part to produce relief, the other to distribute it. And while the instrument of Distribution was being perfected in Paris, the instrument of Production was being forged in New York.

The latter bore the name of THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES, or "*Warelief*," and was called into being to receive all American relief contributions, cash or kind, and forward them through the Paris CLEARING HOUSE to their specific destination.

The necessity for such a centralizing station had made itself felt in the United States by the beginning of 1915. Associations to help France and her allies were then springing up throughout the country, not only in the cities and big towns, but in the smaller communities. Never was a movement more truly national, nor one more beneficent. The distress "over there" touched every heart. To work for its alleviation was considered an essential part of the duty of every good citizen. It is a significant fact that the States of the Middle West where a large element of the population is of German stock contributed generously from the beginning to the funds administered by the CLEARING HOUSE. The diversity of the movement was as astounding as its extent. Every form of suffering and wretchedness had its particular group of sympathizers There were associations to provide clothing for refugees, food for the starving, artificial limbs for the maimed; to furnish surgical instruments and dressings, medicinal supplies, re-invigorating comforts for convalescents, pecuniary aid for widows and the fatherless, toys at Christmas for the little ones. There was nothing perfunctory

in the campaign against misery : it was instinct with the loving-kindness that is the true meaning, the essence, of that maltreated word, charity.

The records of the A.R.C.H. in the first weeks of its existence throw a vivid light on the movement and reveal its imposing dimensions. The late Hugh Reid Griffin, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, to whom, early in the history of the A.R.C.H., a special resolution of thanks was unanimously voted (March 3, 1915) on the motion of Rev. Dr. Watson, for "*his untiring efforts and initiative*," reported on Dec. 28, 1914, the arrival of 49 packing cases of clothing ; and on the same day, 36 cases sent by the American Red Cross through the Comité de Secours National ; and 5,500 bottles of anæsthetic chloroform. On the 30th, 70 cases were due to arrive in Paris from Bordeaux and 14 cases of surgical instruments from Havre. On January 2, 1915, 138 cases were announced ; on the 6th, 62 cases ; on the 8th, 50 cases ; on the 11th, 250 cases, and 22 cases received through the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris. The minutes of every meeting of the A.R.C.H. make reference to the arrival or forthcoming arrival of American shipments. The significance of this fact lies in the youth of the CLEARING HOUSE. In December-January, it was still in the organization stage. Its services at that period were utilized by the smallest fraction, an infinitesimal fraction, of the American relief associations. Yet an Inspector sent to Havre early in January to investigate conditions there reports : "*Owing to the very numerous shipments from the United States, the warehouses and sheds of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique are blocked to such a degree that it is impossible, for lack of space, to sort the cases on the spot : for that operation the Company will have to send all this material to Graville* (in the suburbs of Havre). *Furthermore, great complications are caused by the frequent failure to furnish regular bills of lading ; many of the shipments are put on board vessels with only an entry on the cargo-list.*"

In other words, relief supplies were flowing into France in conditions that rendered a centralizing organization in New York essential if delay was to be obviated. Again Mr. Herrick set to work, interested eighty or more of the most influential bankers and business men in the matter

Mr. Hugh Reid Griffin,
Chairman Transportation Committee.

and at a meeting held in the Wall Street offices of Mr. Robert Bacon, a body corresponding to the A.R.C.H. of Paris was formed in New York in March, 1915. The Honorary President was Mr. Joseph H. Choate, one-time American Ambassador to Great Britain, a leader of the Bar, and one of the notable figures in the sublime and successful campaign, of which the history in detail is yet unwritten, for the participation of the United States in the war for Liberty. The Honorary Vice-Presidents were : Mr. Robert Bacon, former Secretary of State and former Ambassador to France ; Mr. Myron T. Herrick, Mr. William F. McCombs, and Mr. Frank H. Mason, former American Consul-General in France.

The Board consisted of :

President :

Mr. A. Barton Hepburn ; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chase National Bank.

Vice-Presidents :

Mr. S. R. Bertron ; of Bertron, Griscom and Co., bankers ;
Mr. Fred I. Kent ; Vice-President of the Bankers Trust Co ;
Mr. W. T. P. Hollingsworth ; President of the R.U.V. Co. ;
Mr. Lloyd Warren, architect ;
Mr. W. Forbes Morgan, stockbroker ;
Mr. R. L. Bacon, of Kissel, Kinnicutt and Co., bankers.

Treasurer :

Mr. Thomas W. Lamont, of Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co.

Executive Committee :

Mr. Horace E. Andrews ;
Mr. Charles R. Bangs ;
Mr. Edmund L. Baylies ;
Mr. C. A. Coffin ;
Mr. William Greenough ;
Mr. Ralph J. Preston ;
Mr. Francis Louis Slade ;
Mr. Henry W. Taft ;
Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt
Mr. Whitney Warren.

Secretary of Executive Committee :

Mr. Walbridge S. Taft, of Parks, Mc Kinley and Taft.

Chairman of Finance Committee :

Mr. Horace E. Andrews ; President of New York State Railways Co.

Chairman of Committee on Foreign Relations :

Mr. E. C. Bacon, of Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Cc.

Chairman of Transportation Committee :

Mr. B. D. Caldwell, President of Wells, Fargo and Co.

Chairman of Purchasing Committee :

Mr. Frederick A. Juilliard, of Messrs. A. D. Juilliard & Co.

Chairman of Auditing Committee :

Mr. James Marwick, of Messrs. Marwick, Mitchell, Peat & Co.

Executive Secretary : Mr. Clyde A. Pratt.

Assistant Secretary : Mr. Yale W. Burtch.

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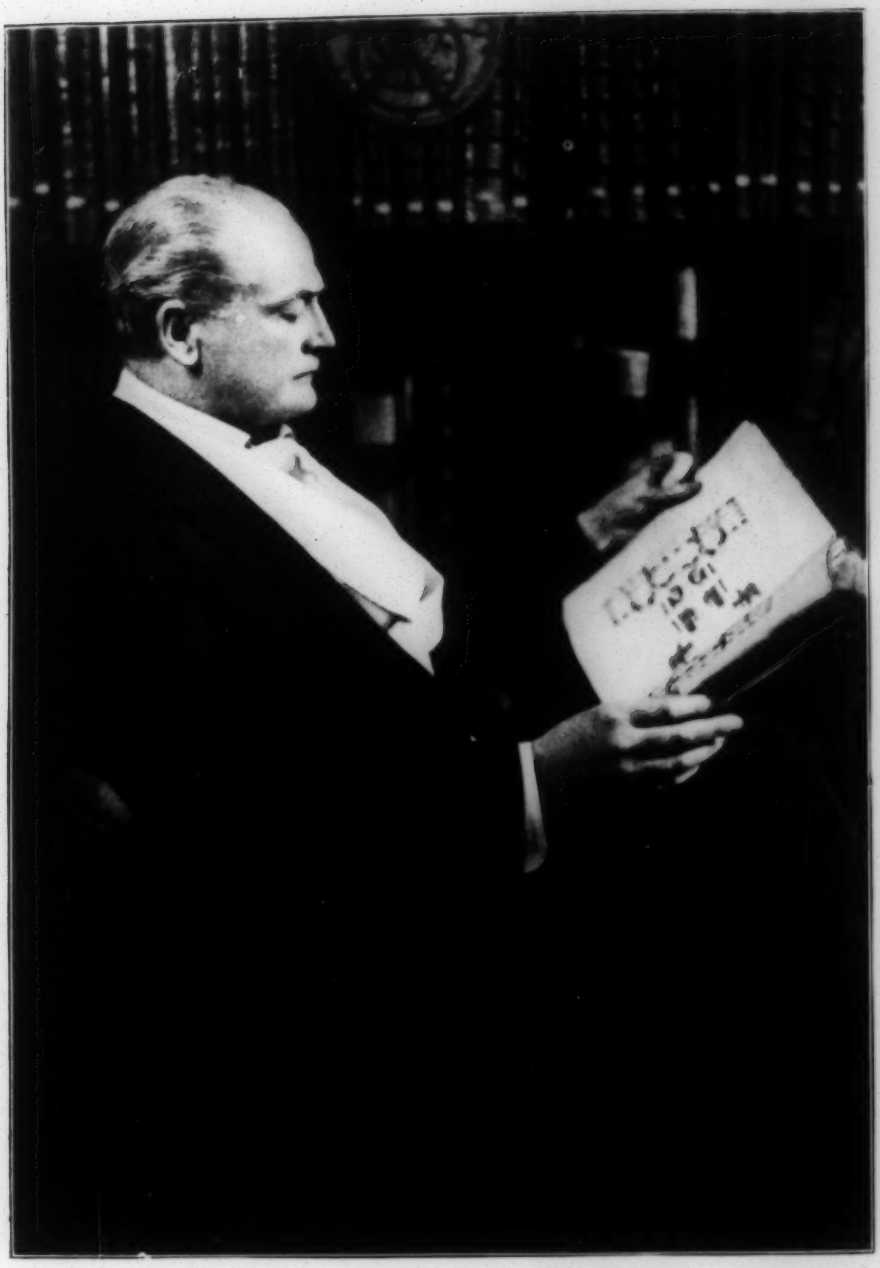
It is impossible to disunite the two CLEARING HOUSES, each being the complement of the other. But a special tribute must be paid to the New York organization. For if the Paris CLEARING HOUSE was privileged to relieve immeasurable suffering in France and elsewhere, it was primarily, of course, through the boundless generosity of the American people ; then, through the perfect organization of THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, the altruistic spirit of its members and the labour of its Executive. It would be an injustice not to mention particularly Mr. C. A. Coffin, By common consent he was the very soul of " WARELIEF." Prophets, we know on Divine authority, are insufficiently honoured at home ; the same lot often falls to philanthropists. Mr. Coffin is a case in point. The multifarious work of charity he accomplished during the war is not fully realized in America. As regards THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE he was pre-eminently " the man behind the gun ; "



Mr. Whitney Warren,
Vice-President of the A.R.C.H.

he it was who by dint of energy, business genius, and resourcefulness, made the organization worthy of the cause to which it was dedicated. On that point no one is better qualified than Mr. Myron T. Herrick to speak authoritatively. As my efforts failed to induce Mr. Coffin to give details of his activities in the work of THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, I cannot do better than reproduce a letter from Mr. Herrick on that subject.

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am disappointed, but not at all surprised, that Mr. Coffin is unwilling to disclose the details of his many and varied war relief activities, for, during my thirty years' association with him, I became fully acquainted with the excessive modesty that accompanies his genius for organization and extraordinary executive ability.

Mr. Coffin is recognized as one of the leaders in the world of American finance. Perhaps the greatest achievement of his very remarkable career was the creation of the General Electric Company. He has presided over this most important company since its beginning, and, to this day, he is its advisory and guiding force, in his position as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

It was not until 1915 that Mr. Coffin applied to war relief work his great energy and wide experience in various fields. From that moment to the close of the war, he was

identified with many of these relief associations, the organization of which was due to his creative genius, and the wonderful and far-reaching results to his breadth of mind, his far-sightedness, his infectious enthusiasm, in addition to a most generous contribution from his personal fortune. While Mr. Coffin's business achievements are widely recognized in America, his reticence has prevented much from being known of the monumental war work he accomplished. France, however, has already expressed her appreciation and gratitude by conferring upon him the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor.

So earnest is my desire that more should be known of Mr. Coffin's prodigious part in the creation and conduct of the WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES, that I am willing to be guilty of the indiscreation of quoting directly from his answer to my request for some details of his share in this organization and work.

> " I merely did my day's work, and a far less personal contribution, proportioned to my situation, than was that of every boy who went across, facing disaster and death. Everything that went from America to France through the Clearing House was America's contribution and should be treated as such. All that happened after the material was received in France, its ware-housing and its distribution,

involving work done by Americans who sacrificed much to be there on the spot, and who faced danger, privation, and disease, are achievements for which they should have the sole credit. I feel that what we did here in collecting and forwarding America's contribution, altogether from about fourteen thousand different sources, was essentially clerical work; the only man who really sacrificed himself and made what was done possible to be done, was Clyde A. Pratt, whom I should be glad to see prominently featured in any record of the operations of the WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES. "

This generous attitude towards another's share in the work of War Relief in New York is typical of Mr. Coffin, and would not, for a moment, be accepted by Mr. Pratt. Although this young man, who was already prominent in Ohio, cannot be too highly praised for his indefatigable zeal and untiring energy in supervising the innumerable details of the operation of this organization, the spirit that animated War Relief was Mr. Coffin. In his letter, he refers to the clerical work involved in collecting and forwarding America's contributions, but, with his usual modesty, he refrains from mentioning the enormous task of planning ways and means of obtaining funds and supplies which made these contributions possible. Mr. Coffin threw himself, body and soul, into this work and was in touch with the War Relief offices in Wall Street every

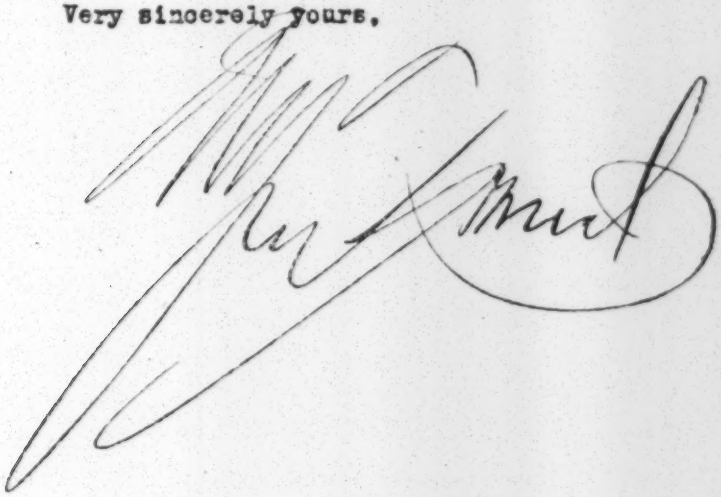
hour of the day. Together with Mr. Pratt, the Executive Secretary from the early days of 1915, whose ability and unfailing amiability contributed in large part to the success of War Relief, and his very able assistants, Mr. Coffin supervised the operations, devised new incentives to activity in calling forth relief contributions, organized means to facilitate collection of material offered, and to ensure its prompt expedition to the war zone. For example, one of the most ingenious and effective means devised for the collection of money was a tax, a small percentage of their bills, which club members throughout the country were induced to pay. The funds raised in this way furnished, during the entire war, a steady and dependable income, which was more than sufficient to cover all administrative expenses.

Mr. Coffin's offices in the Equitable Building in New York, where he presided as Chairman of the General Electric, and his lunch-room, became practically the consulting and advisory headquarters for the countless relief societies in America, and all engaged in this work were in constant touch with him. I do not hesitate to say that Mr. Coffin made the War Relief of New York an indispensable partner of the Clearing House of Paris, and, thus, together, they formed, from the very

beginning, one of the greatest and most effective agencies that enabled the American people to show, in a tangible way, their deep sympathy for the French.

With the assurance of my warmest admiration for your continued devotion to the cause, in presenting these statistics to the public in lasting form, and with kindest regards, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,



The name of the new organization leaves nothing to be desired in respect of clearness : the relief it would provide was " *For France and her Allies.* " The words italicized deserve a little attention. It was only after much discussion that the aim of the new association was stated with such refreshing bluntness. When the idea was first mooted the question came up : Is it to " clear " relief supplies for war-sufferers in general, or for France and her allies only ? In ordinary circumstances the question would have admitted of but one answer, the one dictated by elemental charity. But the circumstances were not ordinary. They were unprecedented. With civilization fighting for existence, charity, which exists only through civilization, had to take sides. It could not place aggressor and victim on the same plane.

Americans made no effort to do it. The first shipment of relief supplies, addressed : " French Army, Havre, " showed clearly the trend of American sentiment. "*Why*," asked M. Millerand in the Sorbonne speech already referred to, " *why was the shipment so addressed ? Why was it not sent, as would have seemed quite natural, through the American Red Cross which, on the outbreak of war and under governmental auspices, had mobilized its forces ? For this reason : The American Red Cross was necessarily neutral, bound to help all belligerents alike. The donors of the relief supplies meant to show their preference. That is why they addressed their gifts simply :" French Army, Havre.* " A gift of money and clothes sent through the A.R.C.H. was accompanied by a letter pointing the same inspiriting moral : "*I am one of the millions of people with limited means who are tortured by a longing to alleviate the terrible and undeserved suffering of the great nation which we love. I wish you could realize with what sincere and poignant sympathy America's heart throbs in unison with the heart of sister France.* "

With such a spirit predominating it was obvious that there must be no ambiguity in the name of the suggested organization. In the United States, a " War Relief Clearing House " would have been regarded with indifference. A War Relief Clearing House *for France and Her Allies* was assured in advance of an enthusiastic welcome and continued support.

In addition, neutrality in clearance operations *via* Paris

was an impossibility. It was a case of "to be, or not to be." Unless the proposed association took sides it could not be. Germany was blockaded. It was manifestly absurd to suppose that the French Government would lend a hand to any effort to make a breach in the blockade. It had granted the A.R.C.H. exemption from the payment of Customs duties on all relief supplies from America, and free transportation on the State railways. The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique had guaranteed ship-space, free of all charges, for the relief supplies. Were those privileges to be used for the benefit of the enemy? Even those most desirous of relieving suffering, no matter what might be the nationality of the sufferer, recognized the lunacy of such a thought. The academic discussion was settled definitively by the unanimous decision to create the War Relief Clearing House solely "*For France and Her Allies.*"

Its object was to do in the Mobilization of American relief contributions, what the A.R.C.H. did for their Distribution. Each received, and each forwarded: "Warelief" receiving in New York and forwarding to France; the A.R.C.H. receiving in France and forwarding to ultimate destination. "Warelief" was kept informed by the A.R.C.H. on conditions arising out of developments in the war, and in turn kept American contributors of relief informed as to the materials most needed and gave them the benefit of its facilities for purchasing on the most favourable terms as regarded price, quality, and delivery. Like the twin-organization in Paris, it procured transportation for relief material free or at specially reduced rates, and, if desired, took all difficulties in connection with shipping formalities and customs declarations off the hands of organizations or individuals contributing the material. From the very beginning a practical working system was set in operation. Mr. William Greenough, of the "Warelief" Executive Committee, visited France to become thoroughly familiar with conditions, the organization of the A.R.C.H., and how best to serve those whom the CLEARING HOUSE was intended to help. Thus mistakes were avoided and confidence was inspired at once. In the course of its existence THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES became the forwarding agent of more than 6000 organizations, and, in ad-

dition, was the medium for the forwarding of contributions from scores of thousands of individuals working independently of any association. It also co-operated with 300 branches of the American Red Cross.

The word " co-operated " is used advisedly. The Franco-American clearing organization was purely a *liaison* officer. It linked contributors of relief to those needing relief. It made a point of honour of in no way supplanting the groups with which it worked, for which it worked. The gratitude was due to them and was given to them. It seconded their efforts by providing free of charge — that was *its* contribution — the services of a systematized organism in order that the charitable endeavours of America to help France and her allies might not suffer through duplication, lack of information, inefficiency, or wasted energy.

But while the dual CLEARING HOUSES followed a policy of self-effacement in the relations between relief givers and relief receivers, in the campaign to stimulate giving they were very much in the fighting-line. All their energy, all their ingenuity and patience and powers of persuasion were brought into play to enlist new contributors of aid and spur old ones to still further generosity. Their publicity work to this end is a model — judiciously devised, interesting, and convincing. Every crisis was made the starting-point of a telling appeal from Paris through New York to the American people. Imagine a sort of three-cornered game of tennis ; one in which the ball, brilliantly served, is passed on to a third player who returns it to the second, he, in turn, volleying it back to the server. There is a parallel to the A.R.C.H. publicity work. Some occurrence in the war created a particular need : immediately, the A.R.C.H. seized upon the event and made it the nucleus of an appeal which " Warelief " circulated by the press, in letters, telegrams, circulars, throughout the United States. The response never failed to arrive promptly in the form of an abundant supply of the material needed. As an example, one of hundreds, take the final liberation of Noyon. It inspired the following cablagram from the A.R.C.H. :

> " *For two and one-half years Noyon has been the city nearest Paris in hands of invaders. Immediately Noyon and neighbourhood liberated, representatives*

Mr. James R. Barbour,
Director of A.R.C.H. Transportation and Publicity.

of CLEARING HOUSE *were on spot with our own auto-trucks filled with blankets, clothes, vegetables, condensed milk, medicaments. Literally everything useful is gone or destroyed. No tools of any kind are left, not even knives, forks, plates or kitchen utensils. Conditions deplorable, and there will be more of these French sufferers thus restored to their country as enemy is expelled. Will you not furnish us with plentiful supply of money that we may purchase that which is needful for instant aid? Send all foodstuffs possible, particularly Canned Beef and Flour.*"

"Warelief" sent the message broadcast with an appeal for "clothing of all kinds, hospital supplies, and sugar, dried peas, beans, dried fruits, rice, condensed and evaporated milk." The appeal ended thus:

"YOUR *contributions in the past have been acknowledged with heartfelt gratitude by the French people; and now comes an appeal for aid which is perhaps needed more than ever before.*

"*WE BEG OF YOU TO DO WHAT YOU CAN to assist us in meeting this call from our American representatives in France who are on the ground and know the exact conditions.*

Above all:

ACT QUICKLY, AS WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!"

The reply came speedily in cash contributions amounting to $100,000. How much was given in food, clothing and goods collectively as the result of that single cablegram cannot be exactly established, but the amount was very considerable. The case is a typical example of the promptness with which American sympathy reacted to the cry of distress; and it illustrates the activity of the CLEARING HOUSE publicity department. The work in Paris was directed by Mr. James R. Barbour, of Stamford, Connecticut. He joined the A.R.C.H. in the first days of its existence and was "annexed" — collectively and simultaneously — by the Transportation, Executive, and Administrative Committees, his work in all bearing the stamp of strong practical individuality and inexhaustible energy.

From the beginning, of course, an endeavour had been made to keep American attention focussed on the great and increasing needs of France and Belgium. How extensive was the demand is indicated incidentally in a memorandum of the Investigation Committee's work during the first month of the A.R.C.H. In that period applications for help had been received and looked into from organizations representing 580,901 refugees. Of that number, 32,006 were in need of food ; 81,402, of money ; 248,616, of clothing and bedding. The view of the CLEARING HOUSE that such statistics should be made widely known led to increased activity in the field of publicity to further the mobilization of relief. But the work was systematized and conducted on a well-defined line of policy only when Mr. Harjes appointed a Publicity Committee consisting of Mr. Barbour (Chairman), Rev. Dr. Watson and Mr. Randolph Mordecai ; with, for a time, as a volunteer worker in the department, Mr. Henry T. Shelton to whom the Committee voted its " *hearty thanks... for the invaluable assistance rendered by him to the* CLEARING HOUSE. " A " Bulletin " was issued immediately and a copy enclosed in each of the thousands upon thousands of letters that were sent to every one and every group in the United States interested or likely to be interested in the humanitarian work of the CLEARING HOUSE.

The " A.R.C.H. BULLETIN " became a monthly publication from November 1915, and after May, 1916, a French translation was published under the supervision of M. Firmin Roz, a trenchant writer, whose work during the war would, if re-issued in a volume, present a remarkable synthesis of American beneficence and French gratitude.

These " BULLETINS " are curiously interesting even now, when they have ceased to serve a direct purpose. Based on crises in the war, or on information procured through the Press, through the Government, or through a legion of Relief Committees and Good Samaritans working for war-victims, each one is a pathetic memento of an anxious moment. Read between the lines, the collection resuscitates, dim and ghost-like, the salient tragedies of the war.

From the practical standpoint, too, the " BULLETINS " are worthy of study. Each one is an application of the military maxim : " Strike at the heart. " Each is a model

of directness, both as regards the end sought and the means adopted to attain it. The programme adopted was obviously : Conciseness ; Clearness ; Continuity. The BULLETINS are small, the size of a folded sheet of notepaper ; the appeal is made with definiteness ; and once the campaign launched it was never allowed to slacken. One of the first " BULLETINS, " one printed in blood-coloured ink, and for that reason known as the " Red Letter," starts off with a paragraph on the aims of the A.R.C.H. and giving a glimpse of the work accomplished. Then addressing America, personified in each of the thousands of Americans to whom the Bulletins went, it goes abruptly to the point :

> *" It may be you have already given something. If so it has been appreciated. Give more! Rest assured it too will be appreciated. What we ask is a mere trifle to the richest and most abundantly provided country in the world to-day. The United States has already given generously. She can afford to give generously. It is her duty to give generously and it is her privilege to give generously. Will YOU give as you are able? If any branch of our work appeals especially to you and your friends, so indicate and your gifts will be applied thereto. Is it those blinded in battle ; or those deprived of arms, or legs, or otherwise mutilated ; or those whose nerves have been shattered by the incessant pounding of the guns at the front? Is it for the soldiers in the trenches, or the women and children left behind? Is it for the refugees from the invaded territory, or the gentlefolk facing the future without a sou? We are doing something for them all. Will you help us do more? Here is a glorious opportunity to send aid to brave, patient, battling France whose record, when this war is over, may well be the envy of any nation that ever existed. "*

There was no lull in this charitable " offensive." American sympathy was given no opening to rest on its oars. Every striking episode of the war was made the basis of another appeal. Even reassuring details served. Before the Allied offensive in Champagne, 1915, some highly satisfactory reports on the military hospitals and the completeness of their equipment were published. But, adds the " BULLETIN, " to prevent anyone from taking the re-

ports to signify that there was no necessity to send further aid : " *every great offensive means many more wounded ; therefore the demand for hospital supplies never grows less.* "

No loophole of escape was left to anyone. " *If you haven't the article asked for, send us the next best substitute,* " says one appeal. " *This war is a fearful consumer, and we can make use of anything and everything you send.* " The seasons even were enrolled in the service : " *Winter is near, and this year it is not the poor alone who will feel the cold. Anthracite costs* $30 *a ton !* " The Germans attacked Verdun in February 1916. Immediately the " BULLETIN " sends out a call for help : " *What is most needed this month is warm clothing for the refugees. Many are tuberculous. We need your generous help in fighting the disease.* " The number of mutilated soldiers rendered it impossible to provide articulated limbs in sufficient quantity without delay ; moreover they were very dear. But " peglegs " (*pilons*) were easily obtainable and cheap. And at once the cry is raised : " *Buy Pilons for Poilus !* " Nor was the future neglected in the caring for the present. " *What,* " asks a " BULLETIN, " " *could YOU do in an absolutely devastated country without tools? A shovel or a hoe would be invaluable, would it not? Will you give one, or more, to help the farmer again take up his struggle for existence?* " And immediate action is urged incessantly : " *He gives twice who gives quickly.* " " *Please do what you can. Above all : DO IT NOW.* " " *You mean to help : HELP AT ONCE !* "

The A.R.C.H. worked in all things on a big scale. On December 23rd, 1915, it is calmly reported in the minutes that Mr. Barbour had just sent out 13,000 personal letters to stir up giving. They were efficacious, a further entry reporting that " *the last mail brought a little more than* 200,000 *frs. in cash.* " The subject is returned to on January 27 : to that date the Publicity service had sent out 17,888 letters, signed personally by members of the committee. About 1,000 were addressed to manufacturers who responded liberally with shipments of shoes, shirts, textiles, lint, cotton, safety-pins, carpet remnants for slippers. It was then estimated that since the beginning of the intense campaign of publicity 500,000 frs. had been received in money. The value of the goods received

easily doubled that sum. Bundles of new clothing arrived daily. At one moment in January, 1916, the warehouse in the Rue Pierre Charron was so stocked, through the simultaneous arrival of several cargoes, that not a foot of space remained unoccupied; the cases and bales were piled in tiers, three high. At the same time, the railway sheds sheltered a number of cases sufficient to fill half the warehouse space of the A.R.C.H.; seven trucks were waiting to be unloaded; and from Bordeaux came notice of the arrival of 1,100 cases. It is difficult to decide which most to admire: the energy of the A.R.C.H. volunteers; the persuasiveness of the CLEARING HOUSE Publicity service, or the inexhaustible munificence of America.

The campaign for relief was not exclusively literary. The organization of bazaars, sales of work, lecture tours, theatrical performances, was encouraged with material aid. Cinemas were furnished war-films on condition that a percentage of the receipts be turned over to the A.R.C.H. relief funds. Representations in theatres were arranged on analogous terms. For the Allies Bazaar, opened in New York at the Grand Central Palace, on June 3rd, 1916, a unique collection of 8,000 war trophies and relics was gathered together with the authorization of the French Government. The request for such an exhibit was received almost too late; but by dint of diplomacy, and persuasion, *and* obstinacy, Mr. Beatty got it aboard the last steamer from Bordeaux due to arrive in New York before the opening of the bazaar. The affair was a triumph, and the war exhibit the centre of enthusiastic interest. The *New York Herald* reported that 565,401 tickets of admission were sold before the opening day; one broker gave Lady Colebrooke an order for 50,000. Fifty thousand copies of A.R.C.H. "BULLETINS" were distributed at the bazaar; and "*Our Friend France*," a war-film taken at the front on the suggestion of Mr. A. Piatt Andrew, Inspector General of the American Ambulance Field Service, was shown for the first time, then began a fruitful tour of the United States.

Lecture tours were arranged, always with the purpose of intensifying America's interest in the work of the A.R.C.H. One, which raised a considerable sum, 208,754 frs., was made by Herbert Ward, the British sculptor, painter, and negrologist, after he had been severely wounded in Alsace

and rendered unfit for further military service. The organization was, in fact, anything but a " sleeping partner " in the work. The members and their friends and relatives vied with each other in devising means of raising funds. On the initiative of Mrs. Hugh Reid Griffin, ivy-leaves from Sulgrave Manor, George Washington's ancestral home, were obtained, mounted on cards, and sold for the benefit of war-victims. For July 4th, 1915, Mr. Charles R. Scott arranged for the sale by the A.R.C.H. of a large stock of American flags, the proceeds being for the relief funds. Mr. Charles Carroll addressed audiences at special exhibitions of war-films. The A.R.C.H. participated as a body, and actively, to make a success of the street collections on the " days " set apart for different categories of sufferers from the war.

There were, in fact, no limits to the efforts of the members. One and all, individually and collectively, they worked on Cæsar's principle that " nothing had been done so long as anything remained to be done. " Immediately it became clear that any particular " drive " was beginning to bear fruit and could be depended upon to give the desired results, another was set in motion. Ingenuity and tenacity at the service of charity : there is the secret of the prodigious success that crowned the efforts to mobilize relief.

CHAPTER IV.

THE STRUGGLE FOR TRANSPORTATION

Tout vient à point à qui sait attendre. (FRENCH PROVERB).

When the munitions of relief had been concentrated at New York or any other American port of the Atlantic seaboard, the difficulties of the A.R.C.H. were only beginning.

To get the supplies to their ultimate destination was a complicated and patience-racking operation. Throughout the war, the fate of the Allies hung upon maritime transportation. Only through its agency could they offset Germany's initial superiority in preparation for the world-conflagration she had kindled deliberately. Clear recognition of this lay at the root of her disingenuous cry for "freedom of the seas," which meant, so far as it had any meaning, that while she claimed the right to act on land as she saw fit, the Allies were not to utilize legitimately their maritime resources. Those resources, ample though they appeared on paper, were lamentably inadequate. With the major portion of the Allied tonnage assigned to the service of the fighting forces, the whole world had to "tighten its belt."

Like everything else, relief work suffered. The history of the A.R.C.H. distribution operations is largely the history of a struggle against malignant fate, represented by insufficiency of shipping and rolling stock. One melancholy detail in the CLEARING HOUSE records is the constantly recurring allusion to transport shortage and its paralyzing effects. Significant in this respect, and amusing, is a letter (July 1915) in which the New York CLEARING HOUSE, "Warelief," complains that receipt of some particular supplies, sent long before, had not been acknowledged by the A.R.C.H. The letter of complaint was received

in Paris two days before the arrival of the overdue supplies! If a shipment were received within three weeks of its departure from the United States, there was satisfaction in the Paris offices of the A.R.C.H.; when, in September 1915, 2,000 cases arrived within nineteen days, there was jubilation; and when — once! — a shipment arrived in seventeen days it was given the equivalent, in relief work, of a citation in Army Orders; it was given mention in "the BULLETIN."

Even when the material had reached France, the problem of getting it to final destination had yet to be solved. And often, very often, a prompt solution was impossible. The gloom of impending catastrophe hung over this tragedy of transportation; doubly a tragedy, for it imperilled the vital interests of the Allies and added to the sufferings of untold thousands of individuals. It was an ever-present reminder of the momentous events that were taking place on the field of battle. One's attention is arrested and held spellbound by the inner significance of certain unemotional passages, mere routine entries, in the A.R.C.H. minutes. Take this one: "FEBRUARY 29th, 1916: *Mr. Barbour reported that the transport of shipments would be stopped for some time on account of the military situation. He also reported that all essence for motors had been requisitioned by the Government.*"

The date is grimly eloquent. February 1916! The Battle of Verdun began on February 21st! For nearly two months the gaze of the world was fixed, in awe, and hope, and veneration, on Verdun, that "town of 13,500 inhabitants and 400,000 dead," where the valour and fortitude of the French, for the second time in the war, saved civilization:

Their shoulders held the sky suspended;
They stood, and earth's foundations stay;
Whom God abandoned, these defended,
And saved the sum of things...

For two months the transportation of troops and munitions called for the utmost resources of the railways; absorbed all the country's stock of "essence for motors;" took precedence of even the forwarding of relief for the suffering. A month after the battle opened, Mr. Beatty had to report a heartbreaking situation: between 2,500 and

3,000 cases of clothing and supplies for wounded soldiers immobilized in Bordeaux. M. Ogier, representing the Ministry of the Interior, could only reply, with resignation, that he had intervened several times in an attempt to expedite delivery of relief supplies, and would try again : " *But there is Verdun!...* " Wagons already loaded had been suddenly requisitioned by the War Department, unloaded, and turned into troop trains. In June, at the height of the French offensive, the second battle before Verdun, 3,000 cases were standing on the platform at the Batignolles Station, and 5,000 were sidetracked waiting to be unloaded.

And by grim irony, that was the very period when the tide of American aid was rising so rapidly that it became necessary to open negotiations with the French Government for the requisition of additional cargo-space. Additional space! With German submarine pirates steadily reducing the already insufficient tonnage of the Allies — March, 29 vessels, 144,000 tons sunk ; April, 66 vessels, 163,000 tons ; May, 48 vessels, 99,000 tons ; June 52 vessels, 93,000 tons ; July, 43 vessels, 99,000 tons ; August, 116 vessels, 151,000 tons ; September, 108 vessels, 204,000 tons ; October, 166 vessels, 286,000 tons!

Additional space! Where was it to be found? The problem only increased in difficulty as time went on. How could it be otherwise, with ships growing fewer and gifts more plentiful? One cablegram from " Warelief " notifies the CLEARING HOUSE of the departure for Bordeaux of " 11844 *cases, including 6 trucks (for) American Ambulance, 2 trucks (for) Norton Harjes, 2 chassis (for) Société des Amis, 1 chassis, 1 field-kitchen (for) American Fund for French Wounded.* " Another, reporting difficulties in procuring transportation, adds : " *We have more than 3,000 cases, of which more than one-half is meat, milk, flour ; also shoes, shovels, 30 ambulance chassis, hospital supplies, and clothing.* " And the message ends with the appealing cry : " *Can you arrange transport? Hurry.* " Still another cablegram reads : " 310 *cases hospital supplies, clothing, en route Bordeaux, leaving more than 4,000 cases in our warehouse.* " And again the message ends with the *leitmotif : " Can you help get space? "* In the early months of 1917, when America's entry into the war was seen to be inevitable, the transportation crisis became maddening.

A cablegram from "Warelief" runs: "1,250 *cubic tons hospital supplies and clothing on hand and rapidly increasing. We must have relief at once.*" Six days later another despatch emphasizes the difficulties with which the New York committee was beset: "*Wire quick if any prospect securing space to relieve our congestion. Warehouse full and supplies arriving in large quantities.* PROBABLY NECESSARY STOP SHIPMENTS UNLESS RELIEVED AT ONCE."

The next day brought forth another despairing cablegram: "*No available shipping in sight.*" It was suggested that shipments be sent by way of England. But the cargo-space was no greater on that route; and the additional trans-shipments meant further delay. Nevertheless, the stress was so great that a trial was made; for the next cablegram reads: "*En route, Havre, boat one,* 273 *cases; en route Bordeaux, boat two,* 446 *cases; en route London, care Armour and Co. for ARCHOUSE, Paris,* 425 *cases; en route Bordeaux, boat seven,* 274 *cases.*" Another notification of the same period runs: "*En route Marseilles, boat four,* 214 *cases, of which* 45, *including* 1 *chassis and body, are for Salonika, and* 169 *for Paris; en route Marseilles, boat five,* 252 *cases destined Salonika; en route Marseilles, boat six,* 502 *cases, including* 17 *destined Salonika* and 485, *Paris; en route Bordeaux, boat eight,* 428 *cases; en route St. Nazaire, boat nine,* 711 *cases, including two autos for Y.M.C.A.; en route Brest, boat ten,* 440 *cases; en route Bordeaux, boat eleven,* 228 *cases; en route Havre, boat twelve,* 236 *cases.*" A later despatch conveys the sinister information: "*Boats number two and nine sunk.*" But, that news transmitted, the cablegram continues phlegmatically: "*En route Bordeaux, boat nineteen,* 317 *cases; en route La Pallice, boat twenty,* 3,592 *cases, including* 3 *ton-trucks for ARCHOUSE,* 2 *two-ton trucks (for) Norton Harjes,* 14 *two-ton trucks (for) American Ambulance, and* 1,762 *cases from Vacation War Relief organization; en route Bordeaux, boat twenty three,* 2 *cases*" — obviously if there was a foot of space vacant, "Warelief" thrust an odd case into it — "*en route Bordeaux, boat twenty-four,* 2 *cases autos (for) American Fund French Wounded.*"

American charity had, in fact, thrown a veritable bridge of ships across the Atlantic. But in spite of it the struggle for carriage was incessant. It subsided, temporarily, at

one point, only to break out at another. When the situation eased in the field of maritime transportation, it became acute in the field of railway transportation. That is not a matter to cause surprise. Statistics of the work done by the French railways during the war give a glimpse of the difficulties that were created by the mobilization and concentration of the army; by its daily provisionment; by the movements, never interrupted and on a vast scale, of troops; by the evacuation of wounded. Every reverse, every success, meant a period of volcanic activity in the railway services. The retreat from Mons necessitated the aid of 120 to 170 trains a day. The transport of reinforcements in the Battle of the Marne called for 170 trains a day. Six thousand trains participated in the battle that immediately followed the Marne and marked the beginning of trench warfare. In 1915, the Northern Company alone ran 114,000 trains in the service of the army — 78,000 of them for the transport of food and ammunition. Furthermore, there was the work for the Allies. From August 1914 to April 1915, 11,000 trains were allocated to the needs of the British forces in a single district, Rouen. In the early part of 1915, Sikh regiments brought to Marseilles from India in 52 army transports, were carried, with all impedimenta, to the front by the Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean Company. After Caporetto, the despatch to Italy of French and British contingents, and their daily provisionment, monopolized 500 locomotives and 12,000 trucks.

To handicap the railways still more, there was a general shortage — shortage of labour, for the male population was serving the flag; shortage of coal, for the mines to a large extent were in the enemy's hands; shortage of rolling stock for the invaders in their first rush had captured 45,000 locomotives and railway trucks. In September 1918, M. Claveille, Minister of Public Works, stated in the Chamber of Deputies that the entire rolling stock then in France, *including that belonging to America, Belgium, and Great Britain*, was 6%, as regards locomotives, and 9%, as regards wagons, less than the pre-war figures. And in addition, quite irrespective of the purely military exigencies, railway traffic continued to increase. Italy received the coal necessary for her existence from England through France; Switzerland received food for the population and

raw material for her industries through France. Import traffic increased 80 % ; export traffic decreased 40 %. Hence the impossibility of loading rolling stock returning to seaports. How often, during the war, one heard sarcastic comment on the trains of empty wagons that " everybody, " at one moment or another, had seen bowling along to somewhere. The criticism was seldom warranted. The destination of such trains was usually a seaport. Owing to the shrinkage, the virtual disappearance, of the country's export trade, the wagons, if sent there at all, had to be sent empty. And unless they were sent there, the mountains of cargo brought to the sea-gates of France by an endless chain of steamers would remain till the end of the war piled up on wharves and in warehouses. If the rolling stock of the French railways is not yet (1922) up to the standard of perfection, the formidable task it accomplished in the war is sufficient to explain and excuse every deficiency.

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How the " crises " in transportation affected the work of the A.R.C.H. may be gathered from a reference in the minutes. At a meeting on November 16, 1916 — the year of tribulation in transport matters — it was reported, despondently, that there seemed no prospect of radical improvement in the railway problem. " *Our shipments latterly have averaged* 2,000 *cases a week: we have at our disposal only two trucks a day, with a carrying capacity of* 100 *cases, or* 700 *cases a week. Thus supplies are accumulating at Bordeaux and our work is greatly hampered. In spite of all the efforts of the War Ministry it has been impossible to augment our clearances.* "

As illustrating the relation between the military operations and the greater or less difficulty of relief work during the war, an example may be given. The Allied offensive on the Somme which followed Germany's defeat at Verdun opened on July 1st 1916. While it lasted, the A.R.C.H. work was crippled. The offensive raged with fluctuating paroxysms of violence until the middle of November, then died away. The lull in the fighting is reflected in a report on November 30, that the outlook was brighter. The transportation authorities had been able to give the

A.R.C.H. Platform,
At the Batignolles Station, Paris.

(Part of supplies unloaded in two days.)

A.R.C.H. 5 railway trucks a day : " *Very soon the shipments will have been cleared away from Bordeaux.* "

Perhaps that prediction was considered a little too optimistic. Be the reason what it may, the CLEARING HOUSE in December, asked Mr. Barbour to go to Bordeaux and devise a system that, no matter what might be going on in the fighting zone, would obviate undue delay in the delivery of American relief shipments. Mr. Barbour arrived on the 4th ; took all factors into consideration ; tore to pieces the organization then existing and inaugurated one that, by facilitating the handling of shipments and doing away with cartage to outlying points, hastened their despatch to Paris. The new system worked efficiently to the end of the A.R.C.H., largely through the liberal co-operation of Messrs. Natural, Le Coultre and Co., an international shipping agency which placed its entire organization in Bordeaux, free of charge, at the disposal of the CLEARING HOUSE.

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An important factor in transportation troubles was the cartage of shipments from and to the railway stations in Paris. When the CLEARING HOUSE was formed, the Seine Prefecture undertook to effect the transport of A.R.C.H. relief supplies between stations and warehouse. The Prefect little realized what an enormous responsibility he had incurred. The motor-trucks (camions) left in Paris were ludicrously insufficient for the work of the city, and in a very few weeks the resources of the Municipality in this respect were submerged. It soon became apparent that the A.R.C.H. would do well to rely upon itself for the cartage of its relief material. As early as February 12, 1915, when the CLEARING HOUSE was barely two months old, the Chairman of the Transportation Committee reported severe congestion in the consignment services. Material arriving could not be warehoused, material destined for the provinces could not be sent to the stations, owing to the scarcity of cartage facilities. To relieve the situation, the Director-General was empowered to purchase a motor-truck, to be charged to the special relief-expenses account already mentioned. A Peugeot one-ton truck was bought, and formed the nucleus of an important equip-

ment that the A.R.C.H. gradually acquired and added to continually. The New York branch furnished a large Peerless touring car — a useful gift, but the expense of running was great and finally, with the sanction of the donors, the car was sold. Then, at various periods, one was presented by the Misses Andrews, sisters of Mr. Horace E. Andrews, Chairman of THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE Finance Committee ; another — a Dietrich, which, by the substitution of a box-body, was transformed into a very handy truck — by Mr. George R. Ostheimer, an active member of the A.R.C.H. General Committee ; still another — a small Willys truck — by Messrs. Gaston, Williams, and Wigmore. Mr. Clarence Mackay provided the funds for the purchase of a most serviceable 2-ton Pierce-Arrow truck. Mr. William K. Vanderbilt, Jun. gave the CLEARING HOUSE a useful Mercedes car. The White Company gave two 2-ton White motor-trucks which the French Government transported from New York free of charge, as a mark of appreciation of the work that was being done by the A.R.C.H.

In addition, during the later part of 1915, and throughout 1916, the motor-truck equipment of the American Distribution Service, an organization founded and directed by Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, did splendid work for the CLEARING HOUSE. Later, the French Service de Santé, (Army Medical Service) proved invaluable in emergencies by lending one to four motor lorries, and squads of soldiers, to help in the transportation of shipments. In the first month of 1917, the work increased, and continued to increase, so enormously, that negotiations were opened for the acquisition of ten additional trucks. But the negotiations were brought to an end by the entry of the United States into the war and the arrival in Paris of the American Red Cross which took over the work of relief in Europe. At that moment, the A.R.C.H. had a transportation equipment of seven motor-trucks and was handling weekly about 350 tons of relief material. Another truck was in use at Havre so long as shipments were sent there ; but none was needed at Bordeaux as cartage was comprised in the privilege of free transportation on the French railways which the Government accorded to the A.R.C.H.

Its action in granting not only transportation franchise

Mr. M. Percy Peixotto.
Honorary Comptroller of the A.R.C.H.

but also Customs franchise shows what an appreciative interest the Government took in the CLEARING HOUSE and what direct support it gave to the work. The question was brought up at a meeting of the A.R.C.H. on December 16, 1914, by Mr. H. Reid Griffin, Chairman of the Transportation Committee ; and the mission of obtaining free transportation and Customs immunity for relief shipments was confided to Mr. Peixotto, Comptroller, and Chairman of the House Committee. He set to work with such vigour, or brought such persuasive eloquence to bear on the Government, that in ten days the matter was settled. The conditions of the dual franchise are contained in two letters.

One, dated December 30th, 1914, from the War Ministry, is as follows :

> " *Relative to our various interviews both in Bordeaux and Paris, and acting in concert with the Minister of the Interior, I have the honour to inform you that all shipments of* THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *founded by the Ambassador, Mr. Herrick, with the approbation of the United States Government, will be transported free of charge :*
>
> " (a) *From Havre, or any other French port, to Paris, or any other town ;*
>
> " (b) *From the Paris Committee to any locality situated in French territory.*
>
> " *It should be clearly understood that such shipments are to be addressed, not to private individuals, but to relief organizations registered at the Prefecture, the Municipality, or the headquarters of recognized associations of public utility.*
>
> " *As regards Customs dues, franchise will be granted for articles such as :*
>
> " *Clothes ; foodstuffs ; sanitary, pharmaceutical and surgical supplies ; all material for military ambulances and hospitals ; tobacco for soldiers ; and, in general, all articles intended for the relief organizations of the said* CLEARING HOUSE, *or for refugees and those in want, whether French or Belgian ; or for soldiers of the Allied armies, as indicated in the understanding arrived at with the Finance Minister.*

> "*I am happy to have been able to co-operate, in the name of the Minister of War, in work of such an eminently philanthropic purpose.*"

The second letter, dated January 14th, 1915, from the Finance Minister, is perhaps a trifle less open-handed, as befits a department that, particularly in wartime, has to ask itself daily : Where is the money to come from ?

> "*You have written me with the object of obtaining right of entry, free of Customs dues, for supplies addressed from abroad to the Committee which has just been created in Paris under the name of* THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *to centralize the distribution of subscriptions raised in America for victims of the war.*
>
> "*I have the honour to inform you that the request is granted with the following restrictions :*
>
> "(1) *Merchandise of which the importation is prohibited (tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, matches, and so on), is excluded from this franchise ;*
>
> "(2) *Beverages and other products containing alcohol, must pay the inland revenue taxes to which they may be subject ;*
>
> "(3) *The shipments in question must be sent direct to* THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *or its representatives.*"

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The list of privileges granted the A.R.C.H. would be incomplete without a special reference to the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, or French Line. From the formation of the A.R.C.H., the Company participated actively in the work by carrying all relief shipments free of any charge, and by co-operating in every way to facilitate compliance with the formalities that the state of war rendered indispensible. No fewer than 95,769 cases of relief materials were thus carried by the French Line in the course of the war. That represents, at the ordinary rates for freight, a contribution by the Company of a sum amounting

to $1,413,670, or, at the current exchange, more than fifteen million francs. The figures in detail are :

Date	No. of Cases	Transport (value in dollars)
1914	4,810	48,000
1915	24,477	244,770
1916	41,745	626,160
1917	21,560	431,200
1918	3,177	63,540
	95,769	1,413,670

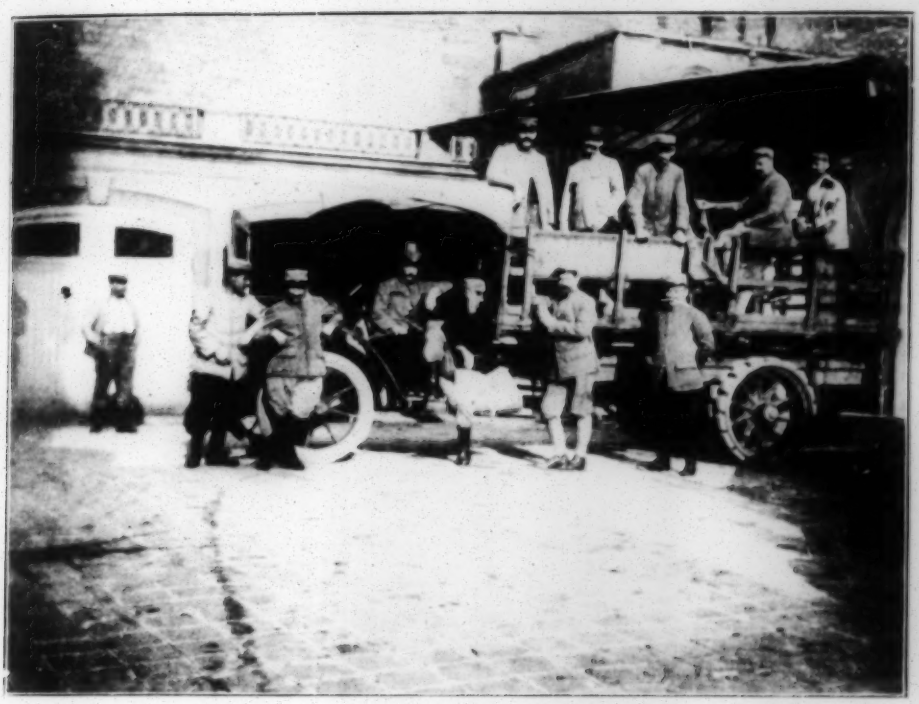
The aid rendered is acknowledged officially in two resolutions, one addressed to the Company, the other to its representative in New York, M. Paul Faguet, on the occasion of his retirement in 1916.

The resolution regarding the Company states that the Executive Committee of the A.R.C.H. "*is desirous of expressing its appreciation of the great assistance that has been rendered by the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, and of the unfailing courtesy and generous co-operation of its officers and personnel.*" The Committee, therefore, expresses its "*grateful appreciation and sincere thanks*" for the "*willing service placed at the disposal of* THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *and which has contributed so largely to the success of its work.*"

The second resolution states that "*M. Paul Faguet has, since the organization of* THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE *in France, extended to that organization and its complementary Committee in New York, a sympathetic interest and invaluable assistance in the work of transporting to France contributions of relief supplies.*" The members of the Executive Committee "*record their appreciation and gratitude to M. Faguet for the zeal and co-operation that has contributed so materially to the successful pursuit of the work undertaken by* THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *and that through his efforts it has been possible to receive many thousands of cases of supplies carried by the ships of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.*"

Other organizations helped the work by granting transportation facilities to the A.R.C.H. The Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean Railway Company carried free all

relief material for Italy or for Serbia sent by way of Marseilles. The Italian Government accorded A.R.C.H. shipments free transportation on the Italian lines. The Comité des Transports Maritimes brought all its influence to bear to obtain from shipping companies cargo-space free, or at greatly reduced rates, for supplies consigned to the CLEARING HOUSE. The French Western State Railway, in July 1916, gave it a concession of incalculable value. Previous to that date, the A.R.C.H. shipments were delivered in Paris at various railway stations situated a considerable distance from each other and from the centre of the city. Thence, to be checked and their contents verified, they had to be carted to the A.R.C.H. warehouse. Then those cases which were consigned through the CLEARING HOUSE to relief organizations, hospitals, and so on, were carted to such organizations if in Paris, and those for organizations in the provinces were sent back to some station for transportation to the designated address. Result: great delay and much unnecessary work. As already stated, there were, in June 1916, 3,000 cases piled up on platforms, and 5,000 waiting to be unloaded, at the Batignolles Station. Finally the Ministry of the Interior came to the rescue, and M. André Dejean, Director-General of the Western State Railway, turned over to the A.R.C.H., for its exclusive use, free of charge, one of the biggest roofed and walled-in platforms at the Batignolles Station. The importance of the gift, for gift, virtually, it was, may be gathered from the remark made by M. Ogier, of the Ministry: "*Space at railway stations to-day is worth more than land in the Avenue de l'Opéra.*" From August onwards, the cases arriving in Paris — sometimes 7,000 to 8,000 in a week — were delivered at the Batignolles Station by the Ceinture Railway, the Paris belt line, instead of being delivered at four or five different stations. Mr. Barbour, in charge of the A.R.C.H. transportation services, devised a system that enabled the shipments to be dealt with immediately and quickly. It was extremely simple. The railway ran along both sides of the platform ; so a double service, unloading or loading, was possible. The platform was level with the floor of the railway rolling stock ; so the shipments could be run out direct. Mr. Barbour divided the surface of the platform into sections : cases addressed specially to the A.R.C.H. were taken straight from the



A.R.C.H. Camion ready for loading by French soldiers on leave.

A.R.C.H. Camion leaving the Batignolles Railway Yard.

railway truck to one section ; those consigned through it to some other big organization, such as the American Ambulance, or the American Fund for French Wounded, were deposited in individual sections reserved for them ; in the last section, were placed the cases that had to be re-addressed and shipped to designated societies out of Paris. The work in this division was specialized : every case as it was brought in was weighed by a clerk, who noted the weight and other particulars in a register and attached a label. Another employee re-addressed the case in accordance with indications on the label and deposited it in the section allotted to the particular railway serving the designated locality and twice a day, sometimes oftener, camions took away the re-addressed cases to the respective railway stations. Within an hour of arrival at the Batignolles station, shipments were often again on the way to their ultimate destination. The cases for the Paris organizations and the CLEARING HOUSE itself were removed daily in a similar manner. The system ensured accuracy combined with a saving of time and labour, and was maintained in operation by the American Red Cross when it took over relief work in Europe.

All the many and formidable transportation difficulties were, in fact, gradually overcome. That they were overcome is, in itself, most conclusive evidence of the energy, adaptability, and resolution that animated the A.R.C.H. workers.

CHAPTER V.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF

Let us pay to the future the debt we owe to the past.

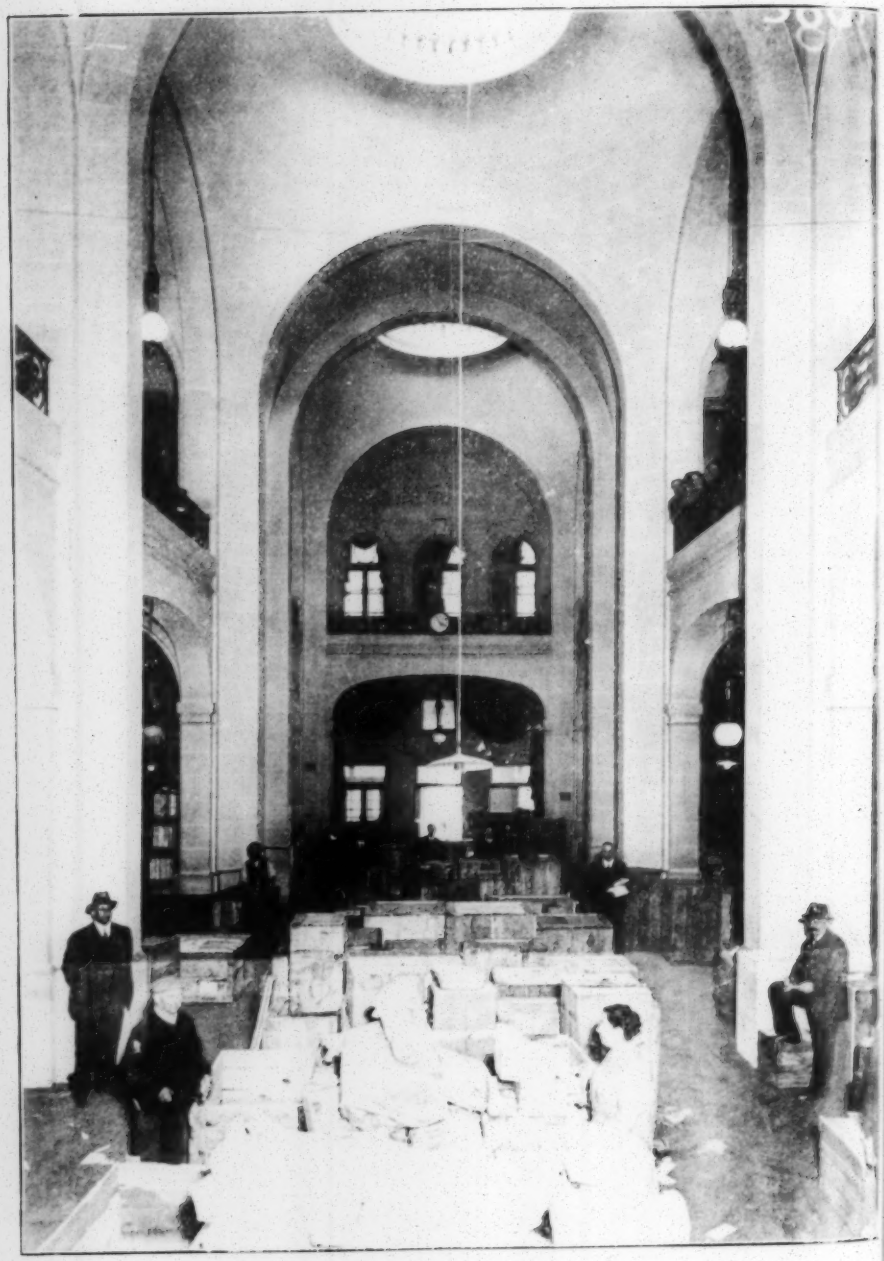
(WINWOOD READE).

"*Distribute your country's gifts. Distribute them as rapidly as possible. When there is nothing left, more will be sent us. America's generosity is inexhaustible.*"

The remark, made in July, 1915, by M. Gabriel Hanotaux, embodied a great truth and outlined a fruitful policy. American charity was, indeed, inexhaustible ; and the policy urged, the one followed by the CLEARING HOUSE, the policy of distributing, judiciously but rapidly and without misgivings as to how demands of the morrow were to be met, allowed the inexhaustibility to reveal itself. The distribution service of the A.R.C.H. was not forced by lack of supplies to leave distress unrelieved for long. The cruse never failed.

In this branch of the work, the burden of responsibility lay on the Distribution Committee. A daily inventory of supplies in hand was furnished to the Chairman, Rev. Dr. S. N. Watson ; and, at its meetings, the Committee considered all the demands for aid that had been received, turned over to the Investigation Committee those regarding which further special information seemed desirable, and referred the others to the Executive Committee with recommendations dictated by the nature of the demand and the material in stock or expected.

The first consignment of American gifts handled by the A.R.C.H. was one of 49 cases shipped to the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris and turned over to thet CLEARING HOUSE for distribution. The cases were sent by the American Girls' Aid Society, one of the first of the American relief societies to begin sending clothing to



A.R.C.H. Warehouse,
(25, Rue Pierre Charron)

Donated for the duration of the War by the Duchesse de Talleyrand.

France. Under the direction of its organizer, Miss Gladys Hollingsworth, daughter of a Vice-President of THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, New York, its shipments were of such practical value that a special vote of thanks was addressed to the Society by the CLEARING HOUSE.

At first the supplies received were stored in the garage of the A.R.C.H. headquarters, 5, Rue François I. It provided accommodation for about 100 cases and bales. But the influx of relief contributions soon made additional storage space necessary. Then it was that the Duchesse de Talleyrand came to the aid of the CLEARING HOUSE, not for the last time. She placed at its disposal, free of charge — Mme. de Talleyrand defraying the cost of heating, lighting and even of care-taking — the big building known as the Miller-Gould Foundation, in the Rue Pierre Charron. Here the cases were brought to be unpacked and their contents placed in racks lining the walls of the big hall and commodious cellars. A card-index of every gift, whether in money or kind, recorded the name and address of the giver ; the date of its departure from New York and reception in Paris ; and its final disposition. This was a basic element of the organization. The A.R.C.H. kept ever in view the fact that it was solely a trustee. To be able at any moment to render account for every contribution, big or little, was manifestly a duty owing both to the contributors and the distributors. Hence the importance of this register and the care with which it was kept. In addition, the system served to establish, if not personal relations, at any rate, personal communications between givers and beneficiaries. With every gift transmitted by the A.R.C.H. went a note requesting the receiver to write direct to the contributor, whose name and address in the United States were given, and to acknowledge receipt of the gift. The A.R.C.H. carried even further its efforts to stimulate personal interest in the relief work. It acknowledged by an individual letter the receipt of every contribution ; and, in the letter, gave the contributor some general particulars of the case he or she had aided. No difference was made : those who contributed little were written to as fully as those who contributed much. "*Do you take all that trouble for a gift of fifty cents?*" asked a visitor, pointing to a letter of thanks which the Secretary was signing. "*Why not?*" replied Mr. Scott : "*the giver*

took the trouble to send his half dollar — and his whole heart."

To handle and house the supplies on arrival, it was often — as with their transportation — not easy to keep pace with the constant increase. When the Miller-Gould hall overflowed, an empty house (17, Rue Pierre Charron) served as a sort of annex warehouse. Later, when still more accommodation became indispensible, the Army authorities provided three big booths in the Boulevard Lannes, with the services of 20 to 25 men to help in the unloading and opening of the cases, and the Paris Municipality lent a covered market in the Rue Maleville.

Even then there was not too much space for the operation of opening cases, sorting their contents and preparing parcels for distribution. The daily inventory, a tiny sheet of paper at the beginning, soon developed into an imposing stock catalogue, no sooner compiled than annihilated by the tireless activity of the relief distributors.

In its deliberations on the relative merits of the appeals received, the A.R.C.H. was aided by a consultative body, the *Comité Central Français de Secours Américains*. With this body co-operated other national committees representing Belgium, Italy, Russia, Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro. They formed what was known as "The Allies Committee." Being composed of belligerents, while the United States was neutral, it was an independent organization. Its aim was to help the A.R.C.H. with information and advice on relief work in the countries at war against Germany. To do that, it met in weekly session with members of the A.R.C.H. Executive Committee to discuss conditions of the moment and agree upon plans for coping with possible eventualities.

Each of these national groups was under the patronage of its chief of State : President Poincaré, the Tsar Nicholas, the King of Italy, the King of the Belgians, and the Kings of Serbia, Montenegro, and Roumania. The President of the French committee was M. Gabriel Hanotaux, member of the French Academy, one-time Foreign Minister, and a writer whose histories of Richelieu and Jeanne d'Arc are classics ; the Vice-President was M. Manuel Baudouin, Premier President of the Court of Cassation, who died in January, 1917. The committee included : the Duchesse de Vendôme ; M. Paul Appell, now (1922) Rector of the

University of Paris ; M. Léon Bourgeois, formerly French Premier, and now President of the Senate ; Mgr. Odelin, Vicar-General of Paris ; the Chief Rabbi Lévy, and Pastor J. Pfender ; M. Louis Barthou, former French Premier ; Vicomte d'Harcourt, Vice-President of the French Red Cross ; M. G. Louis Jaray, director of the France-Amérique committee. The Government was represented by : M. Legrand (Foreign Affairs), M. Emile Ogier (Interior), M. Persil (War), and M. Georges Lacaze (Navy). M. Lacaze was killed in an aeroplane accident in 1918 and was succeeded by Captain Durand-Viel. Other officials and administrative representatives were : M. Georges Payelle (Finance), M. Jean Branet (Customs), and M. Souchon (Honorary Secretary of the society to aid mutilated soldiers and seamen).

The President of the Russian committee was the Ambassador A. P. Isvolsky, now dead ; of the Belgian committee, the Minister of Justice, M. H. Carton de Wiart, with the Minister of the Interior, M. Berryer, as Vice-President ; of the Italian committee, the Ambassador, Marquis Salvago-Raggi ; and of the Roumanian committee, the Minister, M. E. M. Lahovary. Serbia and Montenegro were represented by a single committee of which the late Milenko Vesnitch was President (1).

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As already stated, the Allies Committee met once a week at the A.R.C.H. headquarters to confer with members of the CLEARING HOUSE executive on the relief needs of France and her Allies. The needs everywhere were overwhelming. To glance through the records of the A.R.C.H. is to realize that Europe was a vast hospital and poor-house. In every part of the continent reigned suffering and want. Surgical supplies, foodstuffs and clothing had no time to gather mildew in the warehouses of the A.R.C.H. The gifts received for " clearance " were rushed off ; the others, as soon as sorted, were swallowed up by the insatiable demands of entire nations. In addition to great contributions in kind, America continued to forward

(1) For complete membership list of the national committees see Appendix I.

to the CLEARING HOUSE, throughout its existence equally important contributions in money. Much was intended for specific institutions. The remainder was sent to be expended for relief purposes at the discretion of the A.R.C.H. Such funds served to purchase by hundreds of dozens: blankets, sheets, pillow-cases, flannel garments, hospital pyjamas, towels, handkerchiefs, slippers. Material arrived in an ever increasing flood and was bought on an ever increasing scale; but the demand kept abreast of the supply.

The confidence with which those in need turned to America is brought out impressively in the register of requests received and met by the A.R.C.H. They range through the entire gamut of want and wretchedness, from an appeal for a single clinical thermometer, or some safety-pins, to one for food, or clothes, sometimes both, for the famished and destitute population of an extensive district, of an entire province, indeed, as in the case of Serbia, of a whole nation. One day's work of the Distribution Committee in the first week of the Battle of Verdun comprises appropriations of supplies for thirty-five hospitals scattered throughout France.

If the A.R.C.H. register of material distributed is a manual of geography, it is also a new Book of Martyrs. Every form of physical suffering, of excruciating torture, is hinted at in those records, forming volumes, of grants of artificial hands, artificial arms, artificial legs, orthopædic shoes, operation tables, hospital stretchers, crutches for the crippled, canes for the lame. Read this ghastly entry among those grants: "*Amount sufficient to cover cost of* TWO *artificial arms for Sergeant X... of Dr. Carrel's hospital at Compiègne!*" Page after page, page after page of "damnable iteration," is filled with long, daily lists, each entry beginning: "*amount sufficient to purchase...*," each being an appropriation from this, that, or another American subscription; each representing the gift of an artificial hand, or arm, or leg, to Private A, or Sergeant B, or Lieutenant C.

While hospitals and ambulances were cared for with special solicitude, the civilian population was not neglected. Side by side with appropriations for the wounded are appropriations for refugees. After the Verdun battle,

A.R.C.H. Stope-Room.
(Rue Pierre Charron).

50,000 frs. were placed at the disposal of General, now Marshal, Pétain, for relief in the district. After the German retreat in the Somme, leaving behind them what the enemy called the " zone of death, " 50,000 frs. were furnished to General Nivelle for the relief of women and children in the evacuated territory. Parcels of surgical instruments were often accompanied by games — the former for the operators, the latter for the operated! Here is an entry that brings tears to the eyes : " 2,000 *frs. to* THE HOME AND CRADLE FOR INFANT VICTIMS OF THE WAR. " Here is another : " *Five cots for* BELGIAN INFANT COLONY, *Calais*, " a name and address that spell orphanhood and exile. And still another : " 5,000 *frs. for* THE FRIENDS OF BLIND SOLDIERS. "

The names alone of the relief organizations aided by America through the agency of the A.R.C.H. would fill a fat volume. Associations to help those ruined by the war — thousands, scores of thousands, in comfortable circumstances before the cataclysm, found themselves within twenty-four hours penniless and homeless — associations to provide for the blind, or the maimed, or the tuberculous ; to give a fresh start in life to the mutilated by teaching or re-teaching them a trade ; all received attention. An appropriation of 75,000 frs. was voted in April 1917 for the purchase of clothing and blankets to be rushed to devastated northern France. *Ouvroirs* where women found employment were encouraged. The articles they made, usually clothes and knitted goods. were purchased and distributed among those in want. This policy was beneficial from a dual standpoint : it created a market for the product of industry, and it diminished unemployment. The policy was adhered to in another form. A big gallery in the A.R.C.H. warehouse was turned into a workroom where women knitted socks, sweaters, mountain-caps, throatwraps, etc., of the wool received among the gifts, and made hospital slippers of carpeting sent by American manufacturers.

It is easy to discern, in fact, at the basis of all the A.R.C.H. distribution work, a definite policy, logically conceived and methodically followed. Each category of human misery was made the charge of a member, or several members. The blind, for example, were the special

object of solicitude of Mr. J. Ridgeley Carter ; hospitals, of Mr. Walter Abbott ; orphans, of Rev. Dr. Watson and Mr. Charles Carroll ; cripples, of Mr. H. Reid Griffin and Mr. Carroll ; " éclopés, " of Mr. George Munroe ; refugees, of Mr. Randolph Mordecai ; the tuberculous, of Mr. Beatty. Mr. James Hazen Hyde and Mr. Beatty paid particular attention to the work of reconstruction in the devastated area. Merely to deal with demands received did not suffice for the members. They forestalled demands by preparing to deal with situations that seemed likely to develop out of military operations under way or contemplated.

Nothing in this respect is more typical than the constant insistance at the A.R.C.H. meetings upon the necessity of being ready to further the revival of agriculture in the region of desolation after the war. It reminds one of the elder Cato's harping on the Carthaginian danger. In the first weeks of 1915, Mr. Hyde and Mr. Peixotto began to ventilate the subject. They obtained, through the generosity of Messrs. Charles and James Deering, a gift of five reaping and binding machines. Through the New York Farmers' Association a gift of priceless value was obtained : 25 ploughs, 25 harrows, 25 reapers, 25 horse rakes, 25 binders, 25 mowers, 5 hay tedders, and fifteen hundred shovels, hay-rakes and forks. Investigation of the results obtained at a farm founded at Juvisy by the Union des Colonies Etrangères, an admirable association of the foreign colonies in Paris formed to aid war victims by Mr. Bernard Shoninger, a former President of the American Chamber of Commerce, led to a grant of frs. 400,000 to the Union. Constantly the question of French farming interests in the future came up ; and always the aim of the discussion was to outline an efficacious policy of action for the A.R.C.H. Obviously, no individual gifts could suffice to re-create the agricultural equipment, the accumulation of centuries, that vandalism had destroyed. Mr. Beatty suggested the idea of " honour loans " to farmers, under State guaranty, for the purchase of implements and the resuscitation of the agricultural asset of France. When the enemy had been driven from Noyon and the vicinity in April, 1917, the first shipment to the district taken by the A.R.C.H. camions included farming implements and a supply

Hon. John Ridgeley Carter,
Honorary Treasurer : A.R.C.H.

(Photo H. C. Ellis.)

of live-stock, 2,000 fowls and 800 rabbits. And it is characteristic of the far-sighted methods and policies of the CLEARING HOUSE that Mr. Beatty placed the live-stock under the protection of the Mayors of the different communes : it was given not as food, but as the starting-point of a systematic effort to restock the region, which the Germans, in their brutal phrase, had "sterilized." A sum of 100,000 frs. was set aside for the purchase of other barnyard live-stock for the liberated district.

In all its main divisions, the work of relief was studied with the same thoroughness, not only in detail but as a whole. What steps should be taken to make the blind capable of self-support? America was anxious to aid them. Would not the best aid be that which would restore them to a place among the active forces of the nation? That, in outline, is the question which the A.R.C.H. carefully studied in considering how to relieve the blind. It looked, as always, beyond the needs of the moment. Therefore, it gave cordial support to the "Phare de France," an association working in co-operation with an American society, "The Lighthouse." Its aim was to teach a trade to men blinded in the war, so that though deprived of sight life might not be for them devoid of light. It was under the patronage of President Poincaré, of the American Ambassador, the Hon. W. G. Sharp, and of the French Ministers of War, the Navy, the Interior, and Public Instruction. The President of the "Phare" was Miss Winifred Holt, a foundress of the American "Lighthouse;" the Vice-President, Mrs. Cooper Hewitt, and the Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. Ridgeley Carter, the two latter, active members of the A.R.C.H. But the encouragement of a single organization was not enough. For its guidance in the intelligent and methodical relief of the blind, the CLEARING HOUSE went, as was its custom, to the root of the matter. What was the situation; the best remedy; the cost? M. Baudouin analyzed the available statistics and drew up a remarkable report on the trades and professions open to the blind, the method and duration of training, the number of institutions already existing, the number needed, and the estimated cost. M. Noblemaire, President of the Valentin Haüy Association, an institution for the education of the blind founded by M. de la Sizeranne, who lost his sight in childhood, outlined to the Committee the

results obtained. Mr. Walter Abbott and Mr. Charles R. Scott visited the institute to study its organization and discuss with M. Noblemaire ways and means of extending the work to meet the greater requirements due to the war. M. René Vallery-Radot, President of a society already referred to, "The Friends of Blind Soldiers," summarized the methods that experience had shown to be necessary in leading the blind gradually from the condition of blank despair that always follows the first realization of sightlessness, to the state of courageous resignation, and even cheerfulness, that supervenes when they have "learned to be blind," when they have discovered that they are not wholly cut off from the living. The searching enquiry enabled the A.R.C.H. to work judiciously and efficaciously for them.

In every other field, it prepared itself with corresponding conscientiousness to act as an efficient, that is, faithful, trustee. To decide upon a policy concerning tuberculous soldiers and those who, released from the army as inapt through illness not contracted while in active service, are not entitled to a pension, the A.R.C.H. had the benefit of M. Millerand's sources of information. With regard to the maimed, it was enlightened by M. Louis Barthou, President of the society to help the amputated by teaching them a trade, and by providing them with artificial limbs. This latter point was exhaustively discussed at more than a dozen meetings; methods of manufacture, relative merits of French and American work, output capacity, and cost, being completely threshed out. The vast movement in the United States to aid French war orphans provided another occasion for the A.R.C.H. to render services of inestimable value to benefactors and beneficiaries alike by keeping them in touch with each other.

A fraternal spirit marked the relations of the CLEARING HOUSE with other bodies, French and foreign. There are, in its records, countless passages indicative of this. Once the "Phare de France" was in a quandary owing to the non-arrival of a motor-car shipped from America. Immediately, one of the A.R.C.H. cars was placed at its service. Another organization lacked storage space at a certain moment. At once, a floor at the A.R.C.H. was at its disposal. As for the French, all regarded the CLEAR-

ING HOUSE with confidence and gratitude. The Director of a State service, the Entrepôt des Dons, asked it to supervise the distribution of relief material in a part of the Somme evacuated by the enemy. When the army Medical Service organized a co-operative section to supply hospitals with foodstuffs, the new organization at once appealed for the assistance of the A.R.C.H. supremely confident of its ability to help and of its willingness to help. The same confidence animated the entire French Government. At one moment, the France-Amérique committee believed itself called upon to take over the transportation by sea of American gifts, and it obtained official promises of the precious cargo-space necessary. There was more zeal than judgment in the project. Two centres are one too many for a single circle. With the A.R.C.H. already "centralizing" American contributions, and the France-Amérique committee working to "centralize" them, the shipments were threatened with too much centralization. The one body or the other was superfluous. More : the duplication would be hurtful. Two bodies vying in the shipment of relief supplies would have meant a return to the conditions of dispersed effort to remove which the CLEARING HOUSE had been created. It had proved both its necessity and efficiency. It could not accept, it could not be expected to accept, a situation which, by making it dependent upon, therefore, subordinate to, a totally inexperienced competitor, would lower its prestige and diminish its usefulness. Placed squarely before the facts, the French authorities did not hesitate. They threw the whole weight of their support on the side of the A.R.C.H. And the rival project, stillborn, was abandoned by its begetters.

Not only was the CLEARING HOUSE specially recognized by the French Government as the sole official organization for the distribution of American aid ; it was also asked to exercise a sort of supervisory function as regards persons going to the United States with the object of collecting funds for war charities. No higher compliment is possible. Effective supervision was, of course, impracticable. Nothing could prevent anyone from addressing gatherings of Americans in behalf of a charitable association. Nor could such gatherings be prevented from contributing in response to any appeal. The idea underlying the

suggestion — never put into practical effect — was that those collecting funds for charitable organizations ought to be above suspicion. And in the eyes of the French authorities nothing could better raise them above suspicion than the moral endorsement of the A.R.C.H.

There was an invigorating American contempt for red-tape in its system of working. The question once arose, for example, whether demands for relief should be dealt with on the basis of priority or urgency. Undoubtedly, the continental bureaucrat, the routine-bound official, would have clung to the former principle as to a rock of salvation. And there is, it must be confessed, a semblance of logic and justice in the rule : " first come, first served. " But it is only a semblance ; at any rate in relief work. The war incessantly created situations of appalling distress that caused preceding cases, also appalling, to seem in comparison almost benign. The A.R.C.H., throwing bureaucratic principles to the winds, and adhering only to common sense, laid down the rule that in the distribution of aid, precedence should be given to the applicant most urgently needing relief, not to order of inscription in the register of demands received.

Its perpetually alert spirit was also intensely American. It was always on the look-out for opportunities to help. An organization, the Anglo-American Relief for War Victims, founded by Miss Grace Zorbaugh, after working indefatigably and successfully to succour the Somme refugees, numbering between 40,000 and 50,000, was reported to need financial assistance. At once, Mr. Mordecai went to Amiens, looked into the situation, found the need so real and the organization so capable and worthy, that continuance of the work was desirable in every respect. As a consequence of his detailed report, the Association was strengthened and the campaign in behalf of the Somme refugees was intensified in the United States. This alert spirit showed itself in unrelaxing effort to utilize to the fullest extent the supplies available. One summer, the A.R.C.H. had in hand a considerable store of sugar. About the same time, the newspapers reported an abundance of fruit in the Oise district. The A.R.C.H. promptly established a connection between the two facts. It used the sugar to make the fruit into jam of which there was never

too much for the hospitals. There was, indeed, never too much of any kind of relief material. "*Distribute the gifts; distribute as rapidly as possible!*" M. Hanotaux had urged. And the A.R.C.H. distributed rapidly, lavishly. But the war created needs ever more swiftly than charity could relieve. The growth in both respects is strikingly evidenced in the records of the A.R.C.H. meetings. Early in the war, the daily list of aid grants voted do not fill a page. In 1916-17, they fill four, five, six pages. At one meeting, February 13th, 1917, they amount in value to 54,085 frs. At another, April 17th, they amount to 129,306 frs. At still another, June 8th, to 480,812 frs.!

And as a little indication that the keen American vision, sweeping over the wilderness of human wretchedness, missed no signal of distress, howsoever timid, here is one of the grants, one that should make the name of THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE precious for all time to the brotherhood of the pen and to every lover of Letters: "*Five hundred francs; to* THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY OF POETS."

CHAPTER VI.

THE SINEWS OF RELIEF

I have devoted my income and labour to others.

(WALT WHITMAN).

What was the cash value of the aid furnished?

That is a question easy to answer partially, impossible to answer completely. The value of the material aid given is known ; that of the personal element in the undertaking cannot be calculated, in terms of money. Both factors, call for some consideration. Let us begin with the former.

In its lifetime, the A.R.C.H. published four balance-sheets. They contain all the essential particulars of its work. As already remarked. the CLEARING HOUSE records were kept with scrupulous care. To do so was a moral obligation incurred towards those who provided the money and material distributed. It was also a necessary measure of self-protection. Under the stress of a great crisis or strong emotion, mankind will give lavishly of its wealth. But the crisis ended, the emotion subsided, it is apt to ask : " What became of all we gave? " And in the question there is often more suspicion than curiosity. It was a clear recognition of this universal foible that caused the A.R.C.H. to record every detail of its work with care.

The accounts were audited gratuitously by a well-known firm of chartered accountants in London, Messrs. Doloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co. A " card-index " registered the " history " of every gift — the date on which it was given and forwarded to the CLEARING HOUSE ; the date it was due to arrive ; the date it was disposed of, and how ; the name and address of both giver and receiver. A system of inter-locking checks enabled the executive of the A.R.C.H. to safeguard the contributions of which it was the trustee. Each week a detailed list was sent to THE

WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE in New York recording the disposition made of every gift ; and in case any of which the shipment had been announced had failed to arrive, the list called attention to the non-arrival. Such incidents happened. Losses of material in transit were inevitable in a time when submarines were sinking, monthly, thousands of tons of shipping, and when cargo waited in warehouses or on wharves, sometimes for weeks, before space for it could be found on a vessel or train. But the loss was amazingly small. It averages, for the entire existence of the A.R.C.H., one case per 1,000. The average in time of peace is probably no lower.

There is, consequently, no difficulty in the question : What was the intrinsic value of the aid distributed ?

From beginning to end, the CLEARING HOUSE received and distributed :

	Frs. c.
Cash	12,203,988.63
Material (194,431 cases); estimated value:	74,486,163.60
	86,690,152.23

At the end of this volume is reproduced in full the final balance-sheet of the A.R.C.H. It summarizes all the transactions of the organization, from its inception, November 26, 1914, to the date on which the books were definitively closed, December 16, 1918. The document is so simple and clear that the veriest tyro in book-keeping will find it easy to understand. A little comment may help to bring out the significance of some of its features.

All contributions in money were classed under one of two heads : General Relief, and Special Relief.

To the credit of General Relief were placed all funds of which the distribution was left by the givers entirely to the judgment of the CLEARING HOUSE committee. Such funds permitted the distribution services to supplement gifts in kind received from America with purchases of articles not among the material in hand and more quickly and cheaply obtainable in Paris. The General Relief Fund also served to provide hospitals with articles such as wheel-chairs, lounge-chairs, writing materials, books and games with which to while away the tedious days of convalescence, or tools to be used in the teaching of trades to

amputated soldiers ; articles, in short, not usually supplied by the Government as they are outside the category of " hospital material " in the strict acceptation of that term. The General Relief account was also drawn upon for grants to welfare organizations, and to valuable institutions, such as the soldiers " Foyers, " where men on leave could meet to read, write, and enjoy innocent recreation amid surroundings that bore the semblance of a home.

The total sum contributed under the heading : General Relief, amounted to : 790,260 frs. 82 c.

To the credit of Special Relief were placed all contributions for designated associations, persons, or purposes. They were, of course, disposed of strictly in accordance with the instructions of the donors. This account comprised every gift in money received for relief work in specified localities or countries, or for the purchase of particular articles.

The A.R.C.H. books contain an impressively long list of accounts for definite objects. There are special accounts, or " Funds, " for : " Relief in Albania, " " Relief in Armenia, " " Relief in Italy, " " Relief in Russian Poland, " " Relief in Russia, " " Relief in Serbia, " " Relief in Montenegro. " There are accounts for : " French Refugees, " for " Blind Soldiers in France, " for " Fatherless Children in France, " for " Non-Combatants in the North of France, " for " Refugees of the Somme, " " Needy and Destitute French Boys, " " French Women and Children, " " War Cripples, " " Repatriated Civilians, " and " Children of Devastated Northern France. " There are special accounts for the purchase of a host of articles. For example: there is a " Tobacco Fund, " a " Sheet Fund, " a " Woollen Purchases Fund, " a " Shirts and Underclothing Fund ; " there is a fund for " Warm Clothing and Hospital Garments, " another for " Winter Clothing ; " there is a fund for aid in " Maternity, " and one for the provision of " Maternity Kits. " There is a fund to provide assistance — that is, wool for knitting and woven fabrics for clothing — to " *ouvroirs*, " and one to provide work for the wounded, the " Blessés au Travail. "

There are accounts for Belgium — " Belgian Relief, " " Belgian Refugees in France, " " Belgians in the North of France ; " for Serbians — " Relief in Serbia, " " Hos-

pital Supplies for Serbia," "Serbian Non-Combatants," "Serbian Refugees," "Serbian Rescue;" for Montenegro — "General Relief in Montenegro," "Montenegrin Refugees in France;" for "Polish Non-Combatants," — the frequent recurrence of the mention "for non-combatants" accompanying gifts shows how tenaciously the sympathizers with suffering clung to the principle of neutrality. There are accounts for "Polish Relief;" for "Russian Refugees," for "Relief for Galician Refugees." There are accounts to provide aid for "Les Mutilés de la Guerre," for "Consumptives in France," for "Distressed Gentlefolks," — not the least pathetic category of war victims. There is a "Milk" account, a "Reconstruction" account, an account for the "Re-education of Cripples and Maimed." There are accounts to provide "Hospital and Medical Supplies," and "Hospital Clothing." There is an account devoted to the purchase of "Anæsthetics," and even one for the purchase of "Wooden Shoes for France." It was sorely needed. In an appeal dated November 30th, 1915, M. Guérin, President of the Committee of Supplies for the Invaded Provinces of Northern France, makes a remark which throws a cruel light on the destitution of the inhabitants. "*Even sabots*," he writes, "*are no longer available* WOOD BEING UNOBTAINABLE".

The amount contributed for Special Relief was: 5,401,268 frs. 69 c.

The item: "5,127,163 *frs.* 91 *c.*; *Amounts cleared to other relief Societies and Individuals*," is the sum of the funds forwarded to the A.R.C.H. for transmission, or "clearance," to various associations or their representatives; as, for example: The American Ambulance, Paris; The American Fund For French Wounded, Paris; the Comité de Secours National, a French organization under Governmantal patronage, created on August 6th, 1914, to succour the families of mobilized men; the French Red Cross; the Franco-Belgian and American Hostels for Refugees; special hospitals and ambulances; the French Widows and Orphans Fund; a number of "ouvroirs" and relief associations, such as, "Le Bon Gîte," to provide shelter and a little comfort to the homeless; "L'Appui Belge," to help Belgian soldiers at the front; "La Goutte de Café,"

to furnish a cup of hot coffee to soldiers arriving at railway stations from the front or on their way to it ; and a large number of organizations to assist orphans, the mutilated, and " éclopés, " a name given to soldiers sent to the rear to recuperate from the effects of minor wounds, sickness, shell-shock, shattered nerves or deafness caused by prolonged artillery fire.

Clearance work formed an important part of the services rendered by the A.R.C.H. to those desirous of helping France. In its first year of existence, it " cleared " 1,329,033 frs. 87 c. for various organizations and individuals ; in its second year : 2,446,510 frs. 89.

As already pointed out, nothing was deducted for administration from relief contributions. They were distributed integrally, all operation cost being paid by supporters of the CLEARING HOUSE. The sums given for such purpose were credited, in conformity with the expressed preferences of the respective donors, to special accounts for " Maintenance, " " Automobile and Camion Purchase and Upkeep, " and " Publicity. " The main contributors to these funds were : THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, New York, which made a weekly donation of $ 400 ; and the American Red Cross which also made a regular grant towards the working expense of its agency representative, in France. The A.R.C.H. was appointed to that onerous post on December 18th 1914, by General George W. Davis, Chairman of the American Red Cross General Committee, Washington. In its official bulletins, the Red Cross referred repeatedly and in highly complimentary terms to the able manner in which its work in France was carried out by the A.R.C.H. And at a meeting on June 9th 1916, of the CLEARING HOUSE Executive Committee, the Honorary Secretary read a letter from Mr. Ernest P. Bicknell voicing the satisfaction of the American Red Cross with the CLEARING HOUSE, its official representative in France. The services of the Red Cross were not confined to the payment of a monthly contribution. It also forwarded considerable quantities of surgical and medical supplies, clothes, and other kinds of material aid. One of the earlier gifts distributed by the A.R.C.H. consisted of 36 cases of clothing from the Red Cross, shipped on the *Chicago* with a big consignment to the Comité de Secours National. And to

the day the CLEARING HOUSE was taken over, the American RED CROSS continued to furnish hospital material of the best quality which was distributed in its name by the A.R.C.H.

Other contributors to the maintenance and operating expense were: The Refugees Relief Fund (for motor-truck service); The National Allied Relief Committee, New York; The War Relief Bazaar Fund, New York; The American Fund for French Wounded (motor-truck service).

To complete the list of contributors, there were the members of the CLEARING HOUSE. The majority gave personal service, or help in some shape or form — Mr. Irving G. Will, for example, lent, free of charge, the desks and all other office furniture used by the A.R.C.H. throughout its existence — and all the members, gave a cash subscription — ranging from 500 frs. minimum, to 5,0000 frs. — towards paying the incidental expense of administration. It was, in fact, through a supplementary movement of liberality that the A.R.C.H., having received 86,690,152 frs. 23 c. for relief, was enabled to distribute integrally 86,690,152 frs. 23 c.

* * *

But that sum is merely a drop in the ocean of America's largess. The entry of the United States into the war marked the beginning of an epoch of open-handed support of organizations consecrated to the well being of the fighting-forces and to the work of helping war-victims. The American Red Cross, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, and a host of smaller bodies were provided on a gigantic scale with funds. The Red Cross alone, in one week, received more than 150 million dollars in subscriptions. And all these associations were assured of maintenance during the war. In the world-crisis, America showed that besides consummate physical and moral courage, she possessed a courage that is far more rare, the courage to be prodigal in well-doing.

The eighty-six millions were, in short, merely the sum of that aid which America transmitted through the A.R.C.H. to France and her Allies. They are over and above the

aid contributed direct to thousands of organizations, created and labouring to " win the war. " And the balance-sheets of those organizations are silent regarding the service given by a host of volunteers in hospitals, ambulances, and societies for the alleviation of misery.

Who can compute in terms of coin the value of that service ?

Unless it be taken into account no adequate conception of the world's charitable effort can be formed. It is an element of fundamental importance in the work. Money is, we are told, the " sinews of war. " The saying is less true than is commonly believed. " Scientific " warfare may be difficult to wage, may be impossible, without the financier's help : but men can, and probably always will, make war so long as they may possess muscles, and fists, and passions. Admitting, however, that money is *partly* the sinews of war, it is to an even greater degree the sinews of charity. Money, however, money alone, does not suffice. Something more than the *material* sinews of relief is necessary. Thews, real or figurative, without will to set them in motion, and intelligence to guide their action are merely inert matter. Money, the sinews of relief, is powerless to relieve until vitalized by human will, abnegation and sympathy. The material which figures on the balance-sheets of the A.R.C.H. was a part, but a part only, of the sinews of relief. The other part, the better part, was the " great and manifold " service of men and women in the cause of brotherhood.

Take, as a case in point, the A.R.C.H. It existed solely through altruism and personal effort. Not otherwise. It was the work of its members, work performed day after day, through the long months of the war, that gave vitality to what, without that work, was dross. Their unremitting toil was an element of the " sinews of relief " as precious as the material provided by the toil and ardent generosity of other Americans. All worked for all. The spirit of altruism was not confined to the volunteers. The salaried staff also was imbued with it. This was illustrated on New Year's Day, 1916, when THE CLEARING HOUSE gave its employees the customary bonus for loyal service during the year. Several promptly paid it into the General

Mr. Charles Carroll of Carrollton,
Hon. Secretary of the A.R.C.H.

Relief Fund as their free-will offering. "*The heart gives that which neither silver nor gold can buy.*"

As for the volunteers, their devotion to the work is seen in the steady growth and success of the undertaking. The first reflection inspired by the records of the daily committee meetings, is that absenteeism was almost unknown. The members cannot have attended to their own affairs with greater assiduity than they displayed in attending to the affairs of charity, that is, of the A.R.C.H. But meetings formed, as the preceding pages must have made plain, only a very small part of their daily labours to further the common cause. The reception and forwarding of material involved a vast amount of routine work. Every opportunity was seized by the individual members to carry out missions of relief in the "zone of devastation." During the battle before Verdun, for example, and after the German retreat in the Somme, and the liberation of Noyon, camions loaded with food and clothing for the population were rushed to the centres of distress where the materials were distributed by Mr. Beatty, Mr. Bertram Winthrop, Mr. Leroy King and the late Charles Carroll. The latter was an indefatigable worker. He was ever in the breach. If an arduous task was to be done he was always among the first to volunteer for service. With Mr. Hugh Reid Griffin, Mr. Charles Butler and Dr. Edward M. Ryan, Mr. Carroll undertook an important and difficult mission of Serbian rescue which will be dealt with in a later chapter. With Rev. Dr. Watson, he made a most comprehensive investigation of welfare work for "war orphans," and the joint report which was the outcome of it, a monument of conscientious research, was of immense value to the CLEARING HOUSE. Another equally luminous and serviceable report was made by Mr. Carroll on the measures advisable for the efficacious assistance of maimed soldiers. He was, in fact, one of the main sources of strength for the A.R.C.H.

The work of the members in all the fields of its activity was beyond praise. When not occupied in stimulating production of "the sinews of relief" they were strenuously working to bring about the best employment of them. Hospitals and ambulances in different sections of the country were methodically inspected, and valuable reports analyzing their needs were furnished by Mr. James H.

Hyde, Mr. Hoff, Mr. Walter Gay, Mr. Mordecai. Mr. Whitney Warren, Mr. Charlie Knight, Mr. W. H. Conklin, Mr. William S. Patten — to whom a special resolution of thanks was voted — repeatedly made journeys to the seat of relief operations to gather information for the guidance of the A.R.C.H. distribution services. A book of singular value to specialists could be made of the members' reports, the outcome of patient research and personal investigation, on orphans in France, on the blind and maimed, on reconstruction work, and other problems of the war.

The task undertaken and accomplished was enormous. The President, Mr. Harjes, found ample employment for his time, and knowledge and tact in the work of unravelling governmental and administrative complications created by wartime conditions. The Director-General, Mr. Beatty, had to be, and was, like a strike committee, "in permanent session," always on duty, encouraging, supervising, suggesting, facilitating matters, and adroitly imposing the system of doing "right now" where too often the system in usage was "never do to-day what you can put off till tomorrow." He proved that he possessed to an exceptional and very rare degree the gifts that make leaders of men — the ability to gauge what is possible, clearness of views and expression, resolution in the carrying out of a decision taken, enthusiasm and the power of inculcating enthusiasm. He was exacting, but asked of none an effort greater than the one he made daily and cheerfully. The French Government showed its appreciation of Mr. Beatty's services to the cause of humanity by conferring on him first the ribbon of Knight, then the rosette of Officer, in the Legion of Honour; and the CLEARING HOUSE Committee, on the motion of Mr. Whitney Warren, seconded by Mr. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, passed unanimously a resolution to record on the Minutes "*its appreciation of the labours and efforts of the Director-General in the work of* ARCHOUSE *and to assure him of its full confidence.*"

The Honorary Secretary, of the Executive Committee, Mr. Charles R. Scott, coped with duties that for extent, variety and difficulty left little to be desired. They comprised, of course, attendance at Committee meetings, the drawing up of minutes, and preparation of the

" agenda." They included a mass of correspondence with givers and receivers of relief and with " WARELIEF ." They embraced, at one time, the book-keeping. The Secretary received visitors, interviewed officials, smoothed ruffled susceptibilities, and the rest of the time lent a hand with any work that might be in need of help. Mr. Scott cheerfully performed those and many other duties during more than two years. A British subject, past military age, he finally succeeded by dint of persistent applications in being taken for the Army, and was attached to the Ordnance department. There, possibly, he never had to work more than twelve or fourteen hours a day. After the A.R.C.H. it must have seemed a holiday. On his resignation, a special resolution was voted by the Executive Committee, the President, Mr. H. H. Harjes, voicing the regret felt by the CLEARING HOUSE members and the " *deepest and warmest appreciation of the immense services of Mr. Scott since the creation of the A.R.C.H.* ;" the Director-General, Mr. Beatty, adding that there was no adequate way of expressing the general feeling of regret ; " *the Administration Committee*, " he observed, " *had worked closely with Mr. Scott for over two years ; their relations had been most pleasant, and the parting was a great blow.* "

Mr. Randolph Mordecai, who for two years had been the Assistant Secretary, succeeded Mr. Scott as Honorary Secretary and inherited all his work and worries. He had joined the CLEARING HOUSE in the first weeks of its existence in circumstances characteristic of the self-denying spirit that animated all the members. He had been dangerously ill with sciatica and was still suffering when the CLEARING HOUSE was created ; but he promptly volunteered to help the new organization. The day he called at the Embassy rain was pouring down pitilessly, icily ; it was just the kind of weather that sciatica loves, and certain sharp twinges may have caused Mr. Mordecai to wince ; for Mr. Scott asked not very hopefully : " *What can you do?* "

" *Anything*, " was the cheerful reply ; " *anything — except stand outside in the mud.* "

It was no idle boast. Mr. Mordecai's share in the administrative work of the CLEARING HOUSE can scarcely be over-estimated ; all the time it left free was taken up with a campaign in the American press, a campaign that pro-

duced notable results in the form of cash contributions and gifts of material for France.

Another energetic worker was Rev. Dr. S. Newell Watson, Chairman of the Distribution Committee. By his assiduity at the meetings, his eloquent appeals in the pulpit and on the lecture platform, and his personal efforts in behalf of the blind, the maimed and, particularly, the " war orphans, " he contributed enormously to the development of the CLEARING HOUSE. On February 8, 1917, in transmitting to him the cross of the Legion of Honour, M. Hanotaux, in behalf of the French Government gratefully acknowledged the exceptional services that Dr. Watson had rendered to the French nation by his " *generous activity, tireless labour, conscientiousness and tact.* " " *Every time we have had a delicate mission to carry out,* " M. Hanotaux continued, " *we have always turned to you to act as our ambassador; and your perspicacity and the confidence your personality and your sacred office inspire have invariably crowned your efforts with success.* "

These are typical examples of the A.R.C.H. spirit. It animated all the members. The late Walter Abbott, and the late Ralph Preston were among those always in the breach. The former, as Secretary of the Distribution Committee, grappled with an ever growing task, the preparation for the Committee's deliberations of a detailed analysis of the circumstances underlying *every* request for aid, whether from an individual or an institution, indicating the status of the applicant and all the particulars that could enable the Committee to avoid " over-lapping, " that is, duplication, and error in the apportionment of relief. The labour involved was tremendous. To form even a faint idea of its magnitude one must turn over the pages of the big registers in which are recorded the thousands of " grants " of relief made by the CLEARING HOUSE. Every one of those cases necessitated long, conscientious preliminary study, often hours of investigation, by Mr. Abbott. Only tireless application and entire self-sacrifice could have carried him through the task. The terrific drain on strength and vitality told in the end, and certainly hastened Mr. Abbott's death. It may be said truthfully that he gave his life to the cause of charity.

Mr. Preston was a member of the Executive and Admin-

Mr. Randolph Mordecai.
Honorary Secretary: Executive Committee.

iistrative Committee, and was tireless in his labours to develop the movement in the United States, not only by active participation in the daily work of the A.R.C.H. departments but also by opportune personal contributions to the relief funds. His generosity was surpassed only by his modesty. In 1917, the American Red Cross arrived n Paris, and, among other matters, took over the CLEARING HOUSE. For such a vast administration far more office accommodation was requisite than the building in the Rue François I could provide. The Hôtel de Coislin, the old clubhouse of the Cercle de la Rue Royale, at the corner of that street and the Place de la Concorde, was to let. But the rental rather intimidated the Red Cross officers. Mr. Preston quietly settled the matter by taking the premises ; and placed them at the disposal of the Red-Cross for the duration of the war. Only a few intimate friends knew of his initiative, and even they only because their connection with the administration of the Red Cross and the CLEARING HOUSE made them necessarily acquainted with the facts. The newspapers merely announced that "*a generous anonymous donor, regarding whom nothing is known beyond the fact that he is a countryman of Mr. Wilson, has leased the de Coislin mansion and turned it over to the American Red Cross for its headquarters.*" Not until long afterwards was Mr. Preston's name mentioned publicly in relation with the gift. He was in very truth one of those who, in Dr. Woodrow Wilson's words, dedicated life, fortune, everything, to "*support of the principles that gave America birth and the happiness and peace which America has treasured.*"

In the course of this record reference has been made to the services rendered by other individual members. The list is by no means complete. Mr. John Keller Page for months gave all his time to the A.R.C.H. and the benefit of his business acumen and experience ; Mr. Persifor Frazer Gibson took charge of the work at the Rue Pierre Charron warehouse from its opening to the absorption of the CLEARING HOUSE by the American Red Cross ; Mrs. Claire C. Sisco, Honorary Comptroller, prepared the balance-sheets, a work involving the checking and analysis of scores of thousands of accounts and complicated international transactions ; the four statistical reports issued are the most conclusive evidence possible

of Mrs. Sisco's mastery of the accountant's art — or science — and of her whole-hearted devotion to the work of the CLEARING HOUSE. Special reference is due also to Miss Marian Will, of the volunteer secretarial staff. She was the first to join the feminine forces of the CLEARING HOUSE when it was founded; she remained with it to the end and continued with the Red Cross after that great organization took over the relief work in France. The Minutes refer repeatedly to Miss Will, one of the mentions being a resolution passed unanimously by the Executive Committee to express "*its high appreciation of the valuable services performed by Miss Marian Will whose industry and intelligence shown each day have been invaluable in overcoming the difficulties of her Department.*"

Miss Rawle, Mrs. Sewell, Miss Colvin, Miss Chloe Owings, all of the volunteer secretarial staff, receive mention in the CLEARING HOUSE archives for their activity to develop the relief work. Similarly grateful references are made to Mr. P. Lorillard Ronalds; to Sir Horace Pinching; to Mr. Frank B. Gibson, Accountant and Assistant Comptroller after the retirement of Mr. Scott; to Mr. Charles A. Johnson, appointed to the same dual post when, on America's entry into the war, Mr. Gibson returned to the United States; to Mr. John H. Jordain who took charge of transportation when, on June 8, 1917, Mr. Barbour resigned to become President of the Army and Navy Y.M.C.A.

Mr. Barbour's resignation was a heavy blow to the A.R.C.H. The President, in conveying it to the Executive Committee, stated that he had done his best to induce Mr. Barbour to reconsider his decision, for "*it was the unanimous opinion of the Executive Committee that Mr. Barbour's services had been invaluable and without him the* CLEARING HOUSE *would never have become what it had become.*" He expressed his "*personal regret and sorrow, which reflected the opinions of his colleagues.*" Mr. Beatty, on behalf of the Administration Committee, expressed the same sentiments, and it was resolved unanimously to "*put on record a vote of thanks to Mr. Barbour for the splendid work he had done for two years and a half, and its (the Committee's) appreciation of his unfailing courtesy, and to express regret that he feels himself obliged to take up other duties*".

A few days later the Committees gave Mr. Barbour a silver tea-service as a tangible evidence of esteem and recognition of his work.

The Executive Committee of the WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, New York, also testified its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Barbour in a resolution voted unanimously, June 28th, 1917. The Resolution states that "*the members of the Executive Committee of* THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES, *both in their individual and official capacities, do hereby record their appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Barbour for his untiring interest and self-sacrificing labor in connection with the* AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *where he has most sympathetically and efficiently co-operated with the* WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES *in the handling of its relief work, and extend their best wishes for him in his new field of endeavor.*"

At the root of Mr. Barbour's resignation was the irresistible desire "*to render the biggest service possible to the general Cause.*" He had accepted the Presidency of the Army and Navy Y.M.C.A. because in that field, now America had entered the war, there was more work to be done, more even than with the A.R.C.H.

In that detail — the cheerful readiness to accept the heavier task — in seen the A.R.C.H. spirit, the spirit of altruism. The sinews of relief were, indeed, as much spiritual as material.

CHAPTER VII.

MAINLY STATISTICAL

Last night I drew up mine account.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

My mighty score,
Thy mercy-seat I'll lay before.

(ROBERT HERRICK).

"*Send anything. We can use everything.*" So runs one of the pithy appeals of the A.R.C.H. It was productive. From all parts of the United States, from the Philippine Islands and Hawaii, from so far afield as Japan and the Sandwich Islands, came "everything."

In the gifts, diversity of source was equalled only by diversity of species. A "Museum of Human Industries" could be formed with a specimen of the different articles received. The most ingenious and touching ways of helping the cause were devised. A resident of Los Angeles gave the sum produced by the sale of a poultry farm which she sold to raise funds "for the French." To a pair of knitted socks were pinned two one-dollar notes "for the French." At Christmas, 1915, an American couple sent two cheques which they had presented to each other as a gift "for the French." A friend of France sent $500 to be distributed "at the Front or on the field of action." A sympathizer with Belgium appealed to the A.R.C.H. to help by pointing out to him a small Belgian orphanage in need of funds. Rev. Dr. Watson found one of sixty children and the correspondent undertook to pay for its upkeep during the war. Farming implements were sent, notably through the Farmers' Club, of New York. Cases of surgical and dental instruments were supplied through the Physicians, Surgeons, and Dentists

Fund, an organization which rendered invaluable service to ambulances at the front. There, the stock was never too great. The instruments were in constant use and wore out with awesome rapidity.

It should be noted, too, that " everything " did not mean " any old thing. " The gifts, as a whole, were of excellent quality. Some — for example, many ball dresses of rich materials — were, in a sense, too good. They could not be distributed like other clothing to the first refugee in rags. But the A.R.C.H. did literally " use everything. " The embroidered silk and satin gowns, deftly modified, brought joy to the heart of gentlewomen ruined by the war and compelled at an hour's notice to begin or re-begin the struggle for existence as governesses or nursemaids, by teaching languages, drawing, or music, by appearing in the theatre or on the concert platform, when an engagement offered. That was seldom : among the most pitiable victims of the war were members of the " artistic professions. "

" Everything " could be used, and was used. A gift comprised trousers with one leg. Alas! There was no lack of amputated soldiers to whom such trousers filled every requirement. Some shoe manufacturers sent their unsold stocks, and a quantity of samples, one shoe of a pair. To distribute the latter was, also, not difficult. Even material not intended as a gift proved serviceable. A comprehensive collection of specimens of wood was forwarded to the A.R.C.H. with a cool request that it be passed on to French representatives of Canadian timber merchants. The wood burned joyously and was greatly appreciated at one moment of the winter when coal was very scarce and very dear.

That was not the only attempt made to profit illicitly through the A.R.C.H. A case consigned to it for Nice was found to contain the outfit of a professional boxer — his gloves, training apparatus, wardrobe, cups, photographs, posters and other " publicity " material. A huge case contained merchandise for sale, with a little condensed milk for distribution. On the plea that the few cans of milk were a charitable " offering, " free transportation for the whole shipment was expected.

The Customs department was ever on the alert ; and

the A.R.C.H. as a matter of honour, had to be inflexible in dealing with any effort to utilize its privileged position for commercial purposes.

It was realized what complications may be created by administrative formalities in a country of ancient traditions like France when, in May, 1915, 388 cases of canned food arrived at the Batignolles Station. The material could enter France duty free, but could not enter Paris without paying 8,000 frs. for "octroi," the municipal tax on foodstuffs, etc. The city authorities could not grant exemption, that being explicitly prohibited by "Article 105 of the Royal Ordinance of December 1814." The Minister of the Interior intervened with representations to the Préfecture de la Seine. But the Prefect himself was powerless. The law applies to all alike, and could not be overridden even in the name of charity. But, though it is forbidden to break the law, it is always permissible to get round the law. The matter was settled by treating the cases as "in transit." They were forwarded to the provinces for distribution among refugees in towns where the "octroi" does not exist. "*When a man travels in France,*" said Voltaire, "*he changes laws as often as he changes horses.*" The disappearance of the mailcoach and the centralization of government have greatly altered conditions since Voltaire's time; but municipal institutions still display diversity — almost as great as the diversity of State laws in America. What is prohibited in Paris may be quite licit in Fouilly-les-Oies, just as a divorce unobtainable in New York may be procured easily at Reno.

The Customs franchise, at first limited to material given outright to the A.R.C.H. was soon extended to cover material consigned to it for clearance. But tobacco, alcohol, matches, and playing-cards, being State monopolies of importance in the French Budget, were excluded, and that created difficulties occasionally. Some parcels were found to contain packs of cards. As a consequence the shipment was denied entry. Finally the cards were sent to French prisoners of war in Germany. Some packages imported through the Ivry Station contained tobacco. Further controversy. The prohibited weed was handed to the Minister of War for soldiers at the front: and once more cordial relations were established between the Cus-

toms and the A.R.C.H. Twenty cases of chloroform were detained at the Batignolles Station from March, 1915, to May, on account of the alcohol in the chloroform. A consignment of 437 cases received through Bordeaux was held at the Paris-Orleans Station because it included both tobacco and chloroform.

Such incidents were numerous. But in the main they arose not from any desire to profit personally by the A.R.C.H.; but from indifference as regards the regulations governing relief shipments. Generous sympathy caused many donors to add a few pounds of tobacco to their package, or some packs of playing-cards, or two or three bottles of something more comforting than grape-juice. Or, from a desire to send as much of "everything" as possible, they packed great quantities of supplies in huge wooden cases. Probably they never even glanced at the A.R.C.H. warning that certain articles were not to be sent in any circumstances, or at the counsel to limit the size and weight of consignments in order to facilitate transportation and handling. All that the generous donors thought of was the war; all they desired to do was to show their sympathy for its victims. That humane impulse more than excuses every little error of commission or omission.

The books in which the gifts are registered in the order of their reception are singularly eloquent. "Everything" was contributed and nearly "everyone" seems to have contributed. Some inscriptions recur periodically. Thus: "Five Brooklyn Friends" gave $5,000 every fortnight from August, 1916, to December, and empowered the A.R.C.H. to call upon them for help in any sudden crisis. This group, is a landmark in the list of donors and collaborators. The November "BULLETIN," 1916, outlines its record.

> *"For months, Five Brooklyn Friends' have been giving and are continuing to give on a generous scale and in an intelligent manner that is an inspiration to others. Is the need for cotton, this group sends a hundred bales; is it for socks, the response comes with ten thousand pairs. An appeal for ambulance is made and the 'Five Brooklyn Friends' send three White ambulances, fully equipped. When the word goes forth that there is need for rubber ring cushions*

or hospital garments or rubber surgical gloves, these supplies come in case lots. Mention was made of a need for funds for special individual relief and $1,000 *came at once.*

"*All this giving comes through the American Red Cross which is kept in touch with the special needs of France.*

"*In May we received this telegram: 'Have five thousand dollars available. Is money or supplies most needed to-day?'*

"*In June the following cable was received: 'At this time which would be preferable — cash remittances or purchase and forwarding of supplies?*

"*In the middle of June: 'Have five thousand dollars available. Is money or supplies most needed to-day?'*

"*On July 1st: 'Five Brooklyn Friends' again offer five thousand dollars; five hundred rubber cushions ordered; inform of present needs.'*

"*Latter part of July: 'Five thousand dollars available from 'Five Brooklyn Friends' on August first and sixteenth, September first and sixteenth. Cable needs each two weeks.*

"*Latter part of August: 'Do you prefer three thousand cash September first or fifteenth?'*

"*Again we received by letter on October 1st: 'Again, Five Brooklyn Friends, offer* $5,000 *October 1st,* $5,000 *October 15th,* $5,000 *November 1st and* $5,000 *November 15th.'*"

And the "BULLETIN" asks:

"*Are not the 'Five Brooklyn Friends' doing all the Good Samaritan of ancient story did? Finding the suffering they transport them to hospital in ambulances; they pour oil and wine upon their wounds and bind them up. When the sick and weak, stripped of their all, step forth once more, healed, they clothe them and through us speak the necessary words which give the finishing touch to the rich outpouring of their spirit. Is there anything finer in all history than the unselfish giving of goods and sympathy to those*

in need? Washington told us that we owed a debt of unforgettable gratitude to France for the aid which she rendered us in our hour of need. Are not these 'Five Brooklyn Friends' carrying out his legacy to us?"

***

A few figures will reveal the development of the spirit of generosity. Let us begin with cash contributions. In the first year of its existence, the money sent — exclusive of the "clearing accounts" which were merely a book-keeping entry — amounted to 981,510 frs. 31. By June 30th, 1916, the total had increased to 2,475,023 frs. 19; at the end of the year to 3,584,512 frs. 88; and when the American Red Cross took over the work of relief in June 1917, the cash transactions had reached the sum of 6,191,529 frs. 51.

As regards aid in goods, the A.R.C.H. handled 90 % of all the American relief supplies sent to France, exclusive of those shipped direct to the French Secours National. The work of "clearance" for many organizations was tremendous. It is not possible in this short record to give details even of the principal. Immense quantities of goods were shipped through the CLEARING HOUSE to the American Ambulance, established in the Lycée Pasteur, Neuilly, by the Board of Governors of the American Hospital, and financed by Americans in Paris; to the American Fund for French Wounded; to the Paris section of the Surgical Dressings Committee; to the American War Relief (Duryea) Committee; to the manifold and admirable war charities — "Hostels for Refugees" the "Children of Flanders," etc. — founded and administered by Mrs. Edith Wharton. Scores of thousands of "kits" shipped by the Lafayette Fund were distributed by A.R.C.H. members among troops in the fighting line. This committee was founded in New York to mitigate the hardships endured by the French in the trenches, as a token of American gratitude for the help given by Lafayette and France in the War of Independence. The founders were: Mrs. John Jacob Astor; Mrs. W. Astor Chanler; Mrs. John Jay Chapman; Mr. and Mrs. Archer M. Huntington; Miss Janet Scudder; Mrs. Lee Thomas;

Mrs. M. Orme Wilson ; Mrs. Henry Rodgers Winthrop ; Miss Emily Sloane ; Mrs. Robert L. Bacon ; Mr. Frederic R. Coudert ; Mr. Rawlins Cottonet ; Mr. R. Bayard Cutting ; Mr. Richard Harding Davis ; Mr. Philip W. Livermore ; Colonel Philip M. Lydig ; Mr. John G. Milburn ; Mr. W. Forbes Morgan ; Mr. Gouverneur Morris ; Mr. Charles D. Wetmore ; and Mr. Ralph J. Preston, a name that, during the war, was always found on any list of workers in the cause of humanity and justice.

The " kit " was a parcel of articles — warm underclothing and socks, a waterproof cloak (poncho), soap, writing-paper and pencil, a combination knife-fork-spoon, and other material of inestimable value to men at the front, the active fighting front. They appreciated and went wild over the " Lafayette kits. " Marshal Joffre and General de Castelnau expressed gratitude for them. From his headquarters, General Nivelle wrote :

" *General Nivelle, commanding the II Army (Verdun) is happy to add the expression of his gratitude and thanks to those of the General commanding the Second Army Corps and those of his gallant soldiers.* "

General (now Marshal) Pétain wrote :

" *General Pétain, commanding the group of Armies of the Centre, forwards his most sincere thanks to the generous donors in the Lafayette committee. By their delicate kindness towards the Verdun troops they have shown their sympathy with France who is now fighting for the Liberty and Right of the European peoples just as she formerly fought for the freedom and liberty of the United States.* "

General Mangin wrote :

" *I have the honour to send you my very sincere thanks for the ' Lafayette kits ' which your committee has been kind enough to supply to our gallant men. They have been given out to those who particularly distinguished themselves in the fighting before Verdun from August to September (1916). In conformity with the desire of the donors the ' kits ' were distributed intact and gave the keenest pleasure to the happy beneficiaries thanks to the judicious choice of useful and attractive articles contained in the ' kits. ' I shall feel grateful if you will kindly transmit my thanks to the members of the Lafayette committee and assure them how*

convinced I am that their delicate initiative can only result in a further strengthening of the bonds of friendship that already link together our two Republics."

***

The first six months of 1915 showed a reception of consignments averaging 1666 cases a month. At the end of the year, 22,299 had been received, a monthly average of 2549 for the last half of the year. That total for the twelve months was surpassed in the first half of 1916, the number of cases received from January 1st to June 30th being 23,124, or an average of 3869 a month. The American Red Cross alone, in March, shipped goods of a value of $23,000. At the end of 1916, the total of cases received had nearly attained 100,000, and when the books were closed the account stood : 194,431 cases.

August, 1916, was a month of sensational activity in American relief work. THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE was receiving material in New York faster than the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique could remove it, although, to utilize every cubic foot of space, bales for the A.R.C.H. were stowed in the unoccupied cabins. Passengers were few in those catastrophic days! On the 8th of the month, 3,800 cases were crossing the ocean, and 2,500 were awaiting a ship. On the 18th, the Director-General reported that the CLEARING HOUSE had received 2,331 cases in the preceding six days and had sent out 2,969 cases. On the 29th the weekly report was : 2,050 cases received ; 2,594 forwarded. The A.R.C.H. records, by the way, usually show a greater number of cases sent out than the number received ; the difference is due to the parcels of purchased goods distributed in addition to these received direct from the United States.

To sum up : beginning with 49 cases of relief material in the first month, the A.R.C.H. in its two and one-half years of existence received an average of 6,272 cases each month.

The distribution records of the CLEARING HOUSE are not less instructive than the contributions records. The cash given out in France, amounts to 5,272,071 frs. 25. Of this sum 1,418,678 frs. 87 represent donations to

relief societies ; 1,446,916 frs. 15 were spent for clothing and underclothing ; 556,094 frs. 50 for beds, bedding and household linen ; 108,276 frs. 70 for boots and shoes ; 108,849 frs. 10 for food, milk and fuel ; 574,479 frs. 85 for hospital supplies ; 213,455 frs. 15 for artificial limbs. The Serbians received through the A. R. C. H. 548,163 frs. 36; the Belgians : 175,506 frs. 45 (it should be remembered that the succour of Belgium was in the able hands of the Hoover Commission, hence the comparatively small amount contributed through the A.R.C.H.), and the Poles : 138,226 frs. 84.

There is no lack of variety in the material aid given. Ten cows figure among the gifts to Dr. Depage's hospital at La Panne, the glorious patch of territory which, during the whole war, remained uninvaded to represent Belgium, free and indomitable. Two pigs are tabulated in the list of aid to Noyon. The appropriation of funds for relief in that district are terribly significant : " 816 *frs. to purchase knives and forks* ;" " 37,435 *frs. to purchase clothes and other supplies ;* " " 30,030 *frs.* 50, *to purchase fowls and rabbits.* " On March 29th, 1917, an appropriation was voted of 80,000 frs. for the purchase of clothes and boots to be sent to the Prefect of the Somme ; on April 10th, a further sum of 100,000 frs. was necessary, and on April 24th, still another appropriation of 75,000 frs. was voted. To re-start existence in four liberated village " 12 *skimmers*, 30 *coppers*, 7 *milk-churns*, 10 *incubators*, 1 *fowlhouse*, *and* 1 *rabbit hutch* " were bought in May 1917.

" 300 *frs. to purchase paper vests*, " is one hospital entry — newspapers in those days were both reading matter and raiment — " 300 *frs. to purchase feeding-bottles for babies*," is another in the lists of relief for civilians repatriated after the Babylonian, that is, Germanic captivity. A typical bundle sent to combatant units comprised : " 800 *suits of underclothing* ; 900 *pairs of socks* ; 350 *mufflers* ; 250 *pairs of gloves ;* 50 *chest protectors ;* 15 *kilos of wool*, " and the inevitable bale of " *absorbent cotton.* "

Here is a record of a single day's decisions of the Distribution Committee, not an exceptional day ; one that could be matched by hundreds : —

750 frs. : to purchase instruments for Hôpital Complémentaire, 10, Autun ;
250 frs. : to purchase instruments for Infirmerie de la Gare, Dôle.

Comité

Je soussigné Guilbert

reconnais avoir reçu du Comité

45 volailles, 12 lapins pour la reconstitution
4 coqs
de mon poulailler et de mon clapier.

Je m'engage à conserver ces animaux pendant un an.

(SIGNATURE.)

2 boules mates
1 lapin —

Guilbert

Avoir à Reims
Canton de Mayenne

N. B. — Les bénéficiaires qui disposeraient de ces volailles ou lapins pour la consommation sont prévenus qu'ils n'auraient plus à compter sur les dons du Comité.

Specimen of Receipt given for Live stock supplied by the A.R.C.H. to Inhabitants of the Devastated Provinces

620 frs.: to purchase instruments for Hôpital auxiliaire 250, Juvisy-sur-Orge.
75 frs.: to purchase 8 rubber gloves (Chaput) for Ambulance 10/3.
75 frs.: to purchase games for Hôp. Aux. 109, Sèvres.
450 frs.: to purchase Carrel apparatus for Hôp. Mixte, Laval.
50 frs.: to purchase games for Hôp. Bénévole, 46 *bis*, Lion-sur-Mer (Calvados).
150 frs.: to purchase instruments for Hôp. Comp. 58, Fontainebleau.
275 frs.: to purchase instruments for Evacuation Hospital 32.
Amount sufficient to hire 1 hanging bed for Hôp. Aux. 233, Neuilly-sur-Seine.
250 frs.: to purchase instruments for Hôp. 37, Laval (Mayenne).
350 frs.: to purchase lavabo for Infirmerie, Montataire.
350 frs.: to purchase instruments for Hôp. Aux. 47, Lyons.
200 frs.: to purchase 60 pillows for Hôp. Aux. 202, Lagny.
100 frs.: to purchase games for Hôp. 72.
400 frs.: to purchase drugs for Hôp. de Royallieu, Compiègne.
400 frs.: to purchase pillows for Hôp. Militaire, Calais.
600 frs.: to purchase instruments and drugs for Hôp. Aux. 3, Périgueux.
1,500 frs.: to purchase instruments and pillows for Ambulance 360.
30 frs.: to purchase instruments for Ambulance Automobile 6.
75 frs.: to purchase 1 trousse d'infirmière for Hôp. Comp. 41, St. Dizier.
75 frs.: to purchase instruments for Hôp. Aux. 40, Bordeaux.
125 frs.: to purchase instruments for Hôp. Mixte, Hazebrouck.
500 frs.: to purchase drugs, plus amount sufficient to purchase instruments, for Hôp. Mixte, Salins.
500 frs.: to purchase instruments for Hôp. d'Evacuation 37.
Amount sufficient to purchase instruments for Hôp. Evac. 1, Bouy (Marne).
3,500 frs.: to purchase instruments for Ambulance 7/2.
Amount sufficient to purchase artificial arm "Cauet", for Serg. P. C.
Amount sufficient to purchase artificial leg, "Palco", for M. L. I. 72 Inf. Reg.
Amount sufficient to purchase two art. legs, "Palco", for M. P. Le B. 26 Infantry.
Amount sufficient to purchase art. leg.; "Palco", for M. A. L. 46 Inf.
Amount sufficient to purchase art. leg., "Frees-Clarke", for M. P. G. 132 Inf.
Amount sufficient to purchase art. leg, "Palco", for M. D. D. 143 Inf.
Amount sufficient to purchase art. leg., "Frees-Clarke", for M. F. C. 6 Colonial Reg.
Amount sufficient to purchase art. leg, "Palco", for M. V. L. 103 Artillery Reg.
Amount sufficient to purchase drugs for Comp. d'Ouvriers d'Aviation, Paimbœuf.
2,500 frs.: for Œuvre de St. Nicolas, Paris.
200 frs.: for Œuvre d'Education Maternelle, Chaumont-sur-Vexin.
1,000 frs.: for Restaurant du Soldat, Paris.
250 frs.: to purchase sewing-machine for Mme. M. L. Rambouillet.
35,000 frs.: to buy Ford Ambulance for Délégation de la Croix Rouge Russe pour la France à l'Armée d'Orient (Salonique)

10,000 frs.: for La Mutuelle des Veuves, Paris.
Voted to buy 1,140 cases of Farine Lactée.
Voted to confirm the following purchases:

1,500 pantalons velours, at 8 fr. 50.	1,7250 frs.
300 doz. chemises, at 34 frs. per doz..	10,200
180 packs playing-cards, at 1 frs. 50	270
	23,220 frs.

Or a total disbursement in one day of 83,920 frs., exclusive of the cost of artificial limbs.

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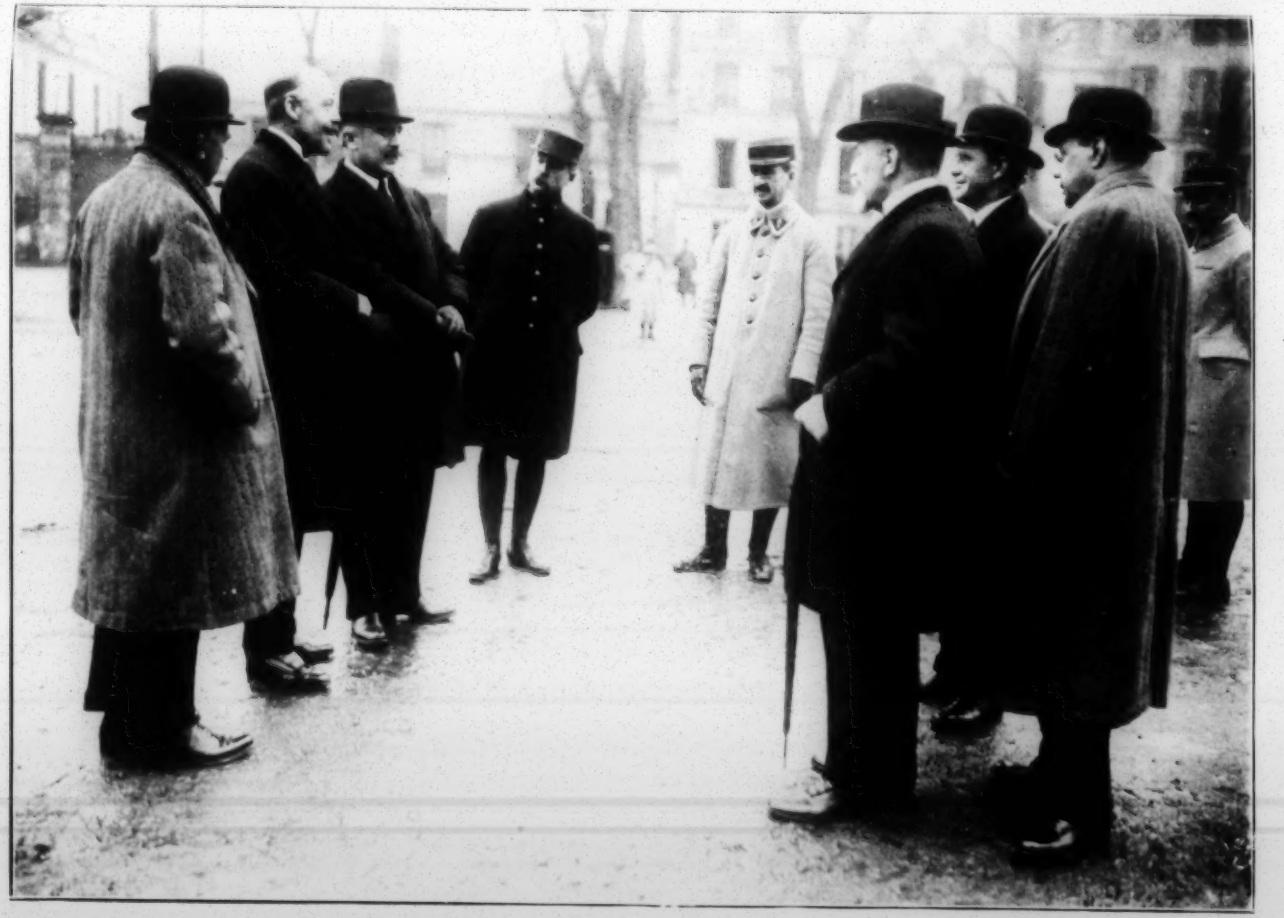
One fact which stands out in the A.R.C.H. distribution records is the decreasing needs, as the war dragged on, of hospitals and the increasing needs of welfare institutions. In 1915, of the supplies sent out by the CLEARING HOUSE, 23.4 % represented material for hospitals. Before the year closed, the hospitals had been provided with all articles that were absolutely indispensable ; and the Government's arrangements for keeping them equipped with such articles were complete and working fairly well. Hence, the following year the proportion of material sent to hospitals by the A.R.C.H. fell to 21.3 %.

On the other hand, attention was more and more concentrated on the misery that is the aftermath of war. More and more help was needed and demanded for the mutilated and blind, for the tuberculous, for widows and orphans. This is reflected in the A.R.C.H. records of material sent to welfare institutions as distinguished from purely military organizations. The proportion of material furnished to the former in 1915 was 76.6 % ; in 1917 it had risen to 87.8 %.

Mr. Harjes was well inspired when in outlining, before the newly-born Allies Committee, the task of the CLEARING HOUSE, he remarked that its work among civilians would be greater than its work among soldiers and " *would be needed long after the war ended.* "

Alas!



PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN MOTOR AMBULANCES
in the presence of M. Justin Godart, French Under-Secretary of State, and
H. E. M. Milenko Vesnitch, Serbian Minister to France.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE FAR-FLUNG RELIEF LINE

L'Europe fut un champ de massacre et d'horreur.

(BOILEAU).

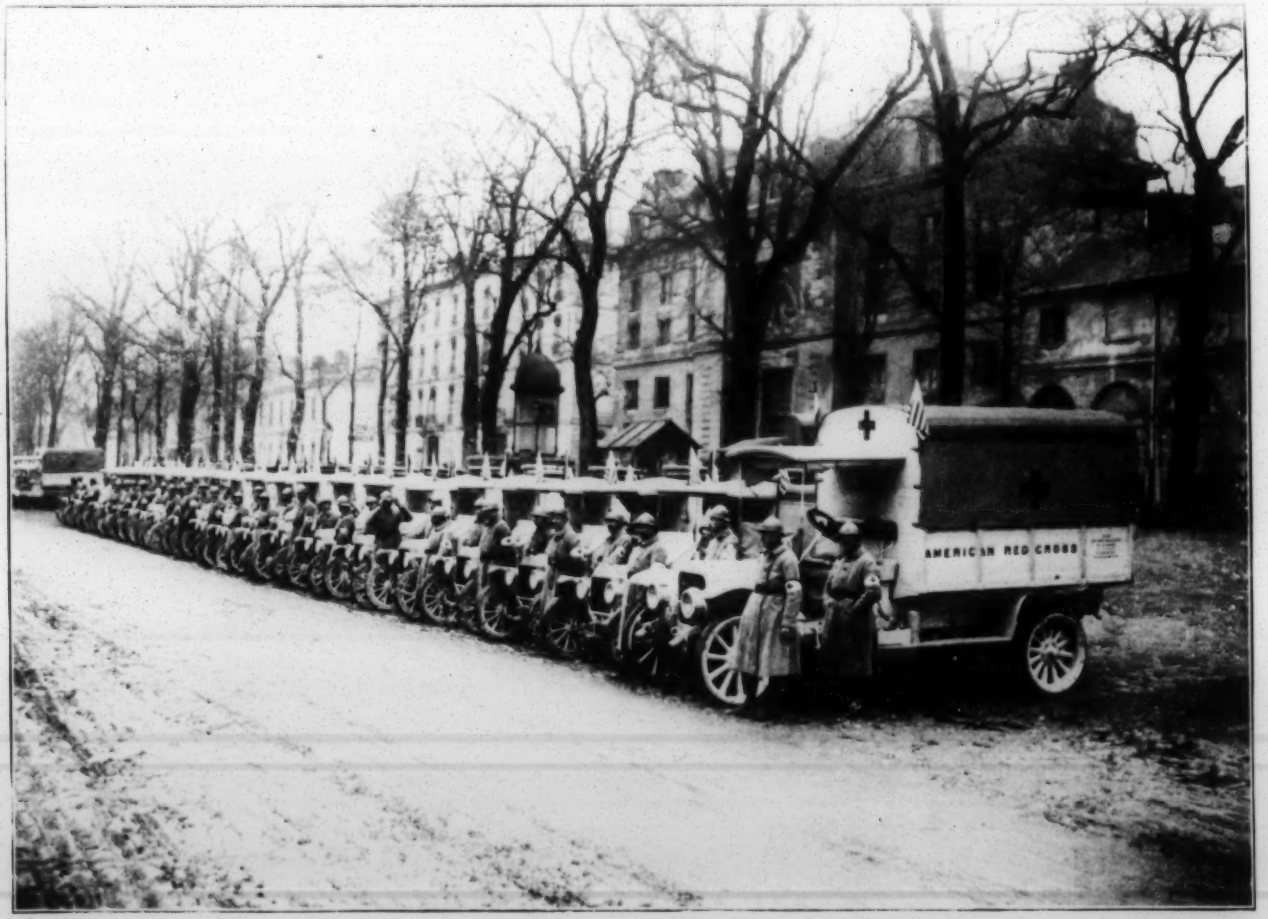
While France was the centre of attention, her Allies were not ignored. The books of the CLEARING HOUSE record sustained offorts to help all of them within the limits of practicability. Obviously, difficult though the undertaking might be, it was easier to relieve distress in France, than in, say, Russo-Poland, or Serbia. In the latter instance, the transport problem alone was wellnigh insoluble. But that circumstance served only to stimulate the charitable ardour of the A.R.C.H. workers. The more formidable the task, the greater their determination to cope with it. This is best seen in a spirited attempt to help the Serbians after their tragic exodus to the Albanian coast in the winter of 1915-16.

It was not the first attempt. One of the earliest shipments made by the A.R.C.H. was composed of medicinal supplies, from English friends, sent to Miss Mary Gladwin, of the American Red Cross unit in Nish. On December 30th, 1914, a further consignment was taken out to Serbia by Drs. Cook and Cookingham. The CLEARING HOUSE also helped, with cash for the purchase of beds and with bales of underclothing, the campaign against the epidemic of typhus which literally decimated the Serbians after their sweeping victories over Austria-Hungary in 1914. The needs of Serbia at that time were enormous. England, France, and Russia organized medical and sanitary missions, The American Red Cross sent one, headed by Dr. Richard P. Strong, a specialist of international repute in tropical diseases. Another was despatched by The Urgent Fund for Serbian Wounded, an association of Americans in Paris

founded by Mrs. A. M. Thackara, wife of the American Consul-General in France. The magnitude of the work of stamping out the epidemic may be gauged by the fact that the cost of the preliminary indispensable measures was estimated at £500,000. Mr. Vesnitch appealed for 1,500,000 shirts. The Honorary Secretary of The Urgent Fund, Mr. F. Warrington Dawson, a gifted writer and a novelist of great originality and power, appealed for 50,000 beds and did everything possible to interest the world in the work of rescue. Dr. Strong appealed for great supplies of underclothing. The task was too big to be accomplished by any individual association. Even the Allied Governments, energetically helped by American benevolence, found that it called for all their resources.

But it was almost child's play beside the one that was sprung in the closing months of the year by the military catastrophe in Serbia. America did all that was possible to help in the work of rescue. To mention only the A.R.C.H ; it took up the question of practical relief in the first days of November when there still remained a faint hope that a miracle might happen to save the Serbians. And from that moment, to the time the survivors of one of the most harrowing tragedies in history were in security, relief for Serbia was the subject to which the A.R.C.H. gave closest attention. The first detailed reference to it in the archives is dated November 12th. A week later the military collapse of Serbia was complete and irremediable. The remnant of the army, in bitter weather, almost foodless, but doggedly choosing death in preference to captivity, was struggling through the Albanian Alps towards the Adriatic — and towards immortality beside Leonidas and his Lacedæmonians at the Thermopylæ, beside Léman and his Belgians at Liége.

About the one definite point in the vague, often contradictory, reports was that food and clothing were imperatively needed. An appeal to America was cabled through The War Relief Clearing House, and the National Committee of Mercy. It may be said at once that America responded whole-heartedly. The A.R.C.H. alone received more than 500,000 francs ; and the Serbian Consul in New-York, Professor Pupin, cabled to Mr. Vesnitch that relief



Motor Ambulances presented by the American Red Cross.

material was being contributed in enormous quantities and asking where to direct it.

Discussion of that point established the advisability of sending a neutral observer to study conditions in Albania and Montenegro where refugees were gathering; and of arranging an independent service of transport. The first condition was met by the appointment of a Commission composed of Mr. Charles Carroll, whose magnificent labours in behalf of France and her Allies throughout the war earned for him both the Legion of Honour and the Italian and Serbian medals for Military Valour; Mr. Hugh Reid Griffin, and Dr. Edward M. Ryan, of the American Red Cross. The latter knew the ground and the people, having served under Dr. Strong in the hospital at Belgrade during the fight against typhus. It was arranged briefly speaking, that the Commission should go to Brindisi, thence to Durazzo and San Giovanni di Medua. On the way to Brindisi it would call at Rome to confer with another American Relief Clearing House, a separate institution working in Italy with the active support of the American Ambassador, Mr. Thomas Nelson Page.

The question of transport was met by a decision to charter a steamer. Mr. Charles Butler, of New York, an architect, and a hard-working member of the A.R.C.H. committees, promptly volunteered to go with the material and distribute it. To appreciate fully the stoicism of the offer, it should be remembered that Austria refused blandly to authorize the passage of ships. The Adriatic was mined. Submarines were doing their best to prevent food from reaching the Serbians. Their efforts were not fruitless: at the time the A.R.C.H. was organizing its expedition to the Albanian coast a steamer with a cargo of foodstuffs struck a mine and sank at the entrance to San Giovanni di Medua. Several vessels were sunk in Durazzo harbour. In short, the role of maritime Good Samaritan involved a certain amount of risk.

Mr. Carroll and Dr. Ryan left Paris towards the end of December — Mr. Griffin going to Rome later — and while Mr. Carroll was finding out what supplies were purchasable in Brindisi, and trying to charter a small steamer, Dr. Ryan crossed to Albania. At Durazzo he bought a few tons of flour brought there by an American schooner,

the *Albania*, which had been ordered by the local authorities to leave those waters. Flour, however, was not, in the circumstances, an ideal relief supply, as fuel was lacking ; thus bread could not be baked in sufficient quantity for the crowd of refugees, a crowd that grew bigger through the daily arrival of groups of stragglers and refugees. It was plain that biscuit would be more immediately useful than flour ; but biscuit was not plentiful, Even had it been procurable in Brindisi, the difficulty of getting it to the coast of Albania had still to be overcome. Ships were few ; and to navigate in the Adriatic without a convoy was pure gambling. To demand from Austria an unmolested passage for an American vessel laden with relief material for a suffering people in migration was obviously out of the question. The request would have been refused without the shadow of a doubt. Furthermore, the United States could never stoop to ask as a favour that which was the right of a neutral state. And American relations with Austria were particularly strained at that moment as a consequence of the sinking of the Ancona.

Finally, as the matter of transport could not be arranged at Brindisi, Mr. Carroll returned, passing through Rome on the way to discuss the point with the Italian Cabinet. And negotiations were taken up in Paris. They resulted in the chartering of the *Menhir*, a steamer of 255 tons, then at Oran.

Trouble with the boilers and insurance formalities, however, prevented her immediate departure though every moment was precious. Nothing could be more tragic than the discussions at the CLEARING HOUSE meetings of the pressing needs of Serbia. Mr. Vesnitch made heart-rending appeals for immediate aid and pleaded for an effort to be made to save the children estimated at about 20,000. They were dying by scores, dying of hunger, of exposure, of exhaustion caused by the fearful journey across the snow-covered mountains of Albania. A description of those who were finally evacuated says : " *There was nothing to show that they were human except their eyes.* " Every day that passed added to the number of the dead ; and weeks elapsed while, owing to transport shortage and the state of war, little could be done.

The vessel left Oran for Brindisi on February 3rd. But

the Italian Navy, under the command of the Duca degli Abruzzi, was very much on the alert to prevent any would-be blockade runners from entering the Adriatic. The *Menhir* was stopped at Messina and ordered to Gallipoli, in the Gulf of Taranto. Thence she was sent to Corfu and from there to the Piræus to fetch about 300 tons of relief material which the American Red Cross, about two months earlier, had shipped to Greece for Serbia, The *Menhir* left part of those supplies in Corfu and another part in Corsica which also had become a haven of refuge and recuperation for Serbians. In the meantime the Allied Navies, assisted by ships which the British Societies of Friends had chartered, had been transporting the refugees from the coast of Albania. The work was finished by the end of February. The *Menhir's* charter expired on March 29th, and the A.R.C.H. maritime expedition closed. Mr. Butler's notes shall fill in the foregoing outline. The mission was under the ægis of the American Red Cross, and at the end of January Mr. Butler joined Mr. Griffin and Dr. Ryan in Rome. After consultation with the Italian naval authorities, who gave a special permission for the *Menhir* to enter the war port of Brindisi, Mr. Butler and Dr. Ryan proceeded there and remained until February 11th waiting for the boat to arrive.

"*While there,*" runs Mr. Butler's report, "*Major Jost de Stael, head of the French Mission, turned over to us three car-loads (65 cases) of supplies of the Comité Franco-Serbe, mostly clothing for women and children, which had been in Brindisi for some weeks. Here, too, we found Mr. Tripcovitch, a Serbo-American, of the American Red Cross, who worked with us from this time on.*

"*When it became apparent that the Italians would not allow the 'Menhir' to enter the port of Brindisi we called on them to transport us without delay to Corfu, and Dr. Ryan and I were sent via Avlona, while Mr. Tripcovitch accompanied Mr. Slavko Grouitch directly to Corfu.*

"*One of the most interesting episodes of this expedition was our journey from Brindisi to Corfu. We crossed the Adriatic in a small passenger boat, the only others to make the trip being Mr. Magoon, of the*

American Red Cross, who was in pursuit of Red Cross supplies which he finally found on a freighter in Avlona Harbour and accompanied to their destination in Corfu, and an English Engineer officer on a tour of inspection of the jetty being built at Avlona by the English Engineer corps. As soon as we left Brindisi it became apparent that the danger from submarines would be slight on account of the very rough weather, and the trip was made without incident. We lay for twenty-four hours in the great harbour of Avlona, surrounded by snow-covered mountains, and were then transhipped to a large Italian liner on which was one of the last Serbian regiments, 2,000 strong. The men showed the effects of the terrific strain under which they had been living. Many were without their rifles, and many were without shoes, their feet being wrapped in bits of old cloth tied together with string. But they showed of what fine stuff they were made, and after seeing them it was no surprise to learn later of the feats accomplished by the Serbian troops after rest and refitting at Corfu.

" Dr. Ryan's presence on board was discovered during the evening and he was greeted with enthusiasm by the Serbian officers to most of whom his services in Belgrade were familiar. The departure from Avlona next morning (Feb. 13) was over a calm sea. And as we were a prize which would have meant glory for the captain of any Austrian submarine, the precautions taken for our protection were thorough. First, the mine-sweepers came in clearing the channel, and then we went out with one destroyer to lead the way and four others doing a ' chassé-croisé ' around us to protect us from harm.

" We reached Corfu, where we found the ' Menhir, ' on February 14th, and visited the tragic Island of Vido where a number of the oldest and youngest Serbian troops were dying as the result of starvation and exhaustion (1). *Called to service among the last,*

(1) " The Island of Vido should be for ever sacred in the annals of human commiseration. On that bare rock, for weeks, battalions of Serbians were laid out, a symbol of the grave." (RENÉ MILAN).

just as the retreat commenced, they had been isolated at Fieri, near the border of Albania, and, with the breakdown of the Commissariat, they had retreated to the coast, unable to secure supplies, and harassed at night by the Albanians — apparently friendly by day. But the French Army medical authorities, a few days before our arrival, had taken hold and had procured from the French fleet a number of huge tents to serve as hospital wards while the Adrien 'baraques,' shipped from France, were being erected. We met the French military surgeen, Dr. Randon, who asked us for blankets which we were able later to furnish him — about 1,000 in all. He also asked if we could get him tents, sheets, slippers, fuel-oil, and ordinary medecines. After consultation with the French medical authorities as to the best use to be made of the 'Menhir' and the funds at our disposal, it was decided that it would be wise to proceed to Athens to purchase medical supplies, sheets, slippers, and so on, and to load about 300 tons of American Red Cross supplies, then lying in storage in the port of Piræus. They had been destined to the Serbians, but as a result of their retreat it had been impossible to deliver them and they had been discharged and placed in storage.

"On February 18th, we left for the Piræus, but were delayed by storms so that we got there only on the third day out. In Athens we purchased from funds for the Serbian relief 2,000 sheets, 700 pairs of slippers, 100 cases of fuel-oil, and varied drugs, among them, after great search, 50 lbs of castor-oil, at 6 1/2 drachmas a pound, and quinine, at 140 drachmas a pound, and aspirin, at 67 drachmas. The American Legation and Consulate staffs gave us every possible assistance.

"The 'Menhir' was to leave the Piræus for Corfu on Wednesday morning, March 1st. It was decided to divide up our party. Dr. Ryan left Athens on Thursday, the 2nd, to take the Greek mail-steamer for Corfu, and Mr. Ralph Bates, of the American Red Cross, whom we found in Athens and who had helped in purchasing and loading supplies, and myself, left at the same time for Messina and Rome. But we were delayed by storms and only reached Rome on

March 8th. While in Rome, Mr. Hugh Reid Griffin had received from the British Serbian Relief Fund, in Corsica, a request for sheets, pillow-cases and standard drugs for the civic hospital in Bastia; so we purchased 1,000 sheets, 500 pillow-cases, and 50 lbs of castor-oil, quinine, aspirin, bismuth and bi-carbonate of soda.

" Messrs. Ryan and Tripcovitch left Corfu on the 'Menhir' on March 12th, but were delayed by the usual storms. On March 16th, the ship having finally reached Naples, Mr. Griffin and I proceeded there, and on the following day, Messrs. Ryan and Tripcovitch, and I left on the same vessel for Bastia where we arrived on the 19th. We visited, with the Serbian representatives, the various barracks and found them in excellent condition. The next day we went by rail to Ajaccio where we visited, with the Prefect, who is in charge of all Serbian Relief work, four of the five establishments where the Serbian refugees are housed.

" The number of sick in the hospitals at Bastia and Ajaccio was much smaller than we had expected; so the sheets and pillow-cases, with the exception of one bale given to the British hospital at Bastia, were turned over to the Prefect for distribution to women and girls as well as to the hospitals, and the drugs were sent to Ajaccio to be distributed under the supervision of the chief medical officer of the island. We also disembarked here 50 cases of condensed milk and a number of cases of clothing and boots from the Red Cross supplies — in all about 90 cases.

" The 'Menhir' left Bastia in a storm on Wednesday, the 22nd, and on account of the heavy weather was three days getting to Marseilles. There we disembarked the remaining Red Cross supplies and the 'Menhir' was turned over to the owners on March 29th.

" In conclusion, acknowledgment must be made of the great help given to the mission by the American diplomatic and consular representatives in Rome, Athens, Marseilles, and, in fact, in every place where we came in touch with them. The French Embassy in Rome, and the French and British Army and Navy

M. JUSTIN GODART,
French Under-Secretary of State, reviewing A.R.C. Motor Ambulances.

officers, were always most courteous and helped in every way possible the efforts of the mission to carry out their task."

* * *

That expedition does not form the whole of the Serbian relief work in which the A.R.C.H. participated. It contributed to the efforts of the CLEARING HOUSE Committee in Rome which, collaborating with an Italian Committee created by Dr. Signorelli, rendered valuable assistance to Serbian refugees who began to arrive in Rome about the beginning of January. They were, in the main, on their way to France, and of the middle class — students, members of the liberal professions, artists, tradesmen, clerks, and some agriculturists. All bore the marks of prolonged privation and physical suffering. Those completely without money were lodged by the committee at the Salvation Army People's Hotel and a number of boarding-houses. They were given vouchers which enabled them to procure clothes, underclothing, and shoes, according to their needs, and on leaving Rome they received a small sum, *viaticum*, for the journey. Medical treatment was provided for the sick. Work was found for some of the refugees, and the children were sent to school. In its report on the work, the Serbian Refugees Relief Committee says: "*We earnestly thank the Italian Government*, THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, *and the Serbian authorities, for their assistance, contributions and co-operation.*"

The A.R.C.H. sent to Princess Demidoff, wife of the Russian Minister in Athens, 100 beds for the Serbians who took refuge in Salonika; 20,000 frs. were voted for the purchase of material for hospitals created in Corfu by Princesse de Poix and Comtesse H. de Reinach; 50,000 frs. were voted to provide shelter for Serbian wounded; grants of funds for Serbian refugees were made to the French authorities at Ajaccio, Marseilles, Nice, Draguignan, Grenoble, Gap, Aix and other centres. In all, the American cash contribution distributed for the relief of Serbia by the A.R.C.H. amounted to 548,168 frs.

Montenegro, though its situation was less tragic, was not entirely neglected during the epidemic of typhus in 1916. Roumania came into the area of the A.R.C.H. work in

December, 1916, when what remained of the army was being re-formed in Moldavia. About 1,500,000 of the Roumanian people, in addition to the regular population, and the army corps which Russia had sent too late to render any service to Roumania, were massed in the narrow strip of territory unoccupied by the enemy. Food and everything else was lacking. The moment the facts were known, the CLEARING HOUSE made up a shipment of various supplies, including medecines to the value of 19,000 frs., and urged other societies in Paris to do likewise. The consignment was transported by the French Government to Archangel and there delivered to a special courier sent by the Queen of Roumania to take charge of the greatly needed hospital material and ensure its safe arrival at Jassy — a happy result that did not await all the shipments sent to Roumania.

Poland, overrun by both groups of the belligerents and cut off from extraneous help, also aroused the pity of the CLEARING HOUSE, which sent funds — at one time through Mr. William S. Patten, who had gone to Petrograd — for employment in behalf of the Poles. The relief contributed to Poland amounted to : 138,226 frs. An effort was made to help the Christian population in Lebanon ; but the Turkish authorities were obdurate, and nothing could be done except with the aid of United States warships.

In February, 1916, Mr. Barbour went to Switzerland with a mass of clothing and hospital material, 36 huge cases and bales, for tuberculous French prisoners of war who had been exchanged by Germany for internment. At Montreux, Glion Chernez, Leysin and Interlaken he distributed 1,200 shirts, 1,200 suits of underclothing, 1,200 pairs of socks, 720 pairs of slippers, and 1,100 blankets. A detailed report of the mission, with photographs, statistical and other data relative to future needs, was sent to M. Justin Godart, Under-Secretary of War (Service de Santé) and called forth a letter expressing warm appreciation and thanks for the timely aid rendered by the A.R.C.H. Early in 1917, a military hospital was created in Fribourg, Switzerland. The CLEARING HOUSE contributed 25,000 frs. towards its equipment.

No part of Europe, which was, in Boileau's grim and ever truthful phrase, "*a field of massacre and horror*," escaped the attention of the A.R.C.H. Wherever was

distress, there the A.R.C.H. carried American help. "*Children in my country*," said Mme. Vandervelde, "*kiss the Stars and Stripes.*" The veneration underlying the act is not confined to Belgium, thanks to the spirit which called the A.R.C.H. into being and marked all its actions. In France, also, and Italy ; in Serbia, Poland, Roumania ; throughout war-scarred Europe, America symbolizes sympathy and fraternal aid.

CHAPTER IX.

MERGED IN THE WAR MACHINE

Bigger doesn't mean better.
(PROVERBS).

In June, 1917, the American Red Cross succeeded to the glorious and onerous duties of the AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE. *Le roi est mort! Vive le roi!*

The event had been under discussion for some time. It loomed up as a possibility the day the United States, faithful to the great ideals and traditions of the Republic, accepted Germany's challenge and took up arms in defence of liberty. There is a prophetic note that seems to forebode the dissolution of the A.R.C.H. in a reply of Mr. Harjes to M. Hanotaux' speech at a regular meeting of the Allies Committee. "*You have had American aid*," he said. "*NOW you are going to have the aid of America.*"

The meeting happened to fall on April 5th, the day after the momentous vote in the United States Senate, and is unique in that it is the only meeting of the CLEARING HOUSE collaborators at which war, not charity, was the topic discussed. The decision of the United States was hailed with joy by the French, and with keen satisfaction by the Americans. It was not unexpected. On the contrary, it was awaited with such complete confidence that preparations to celebrate it had been made. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on March 29th, the minutes report demurely: "*it was decided that a dinner should be given by 'Archouse' on Thursday, April 5th,* WHEN IT WAS HOPED *that the state of war would exist between the United States and Germany.*" The hope was fulfilled; and the members of the A.R.C.H. were extremely happy. They were of that grand type of neutrals who "so long as the Kaiser *was* smashed didn't care *who* smashed him."

The dinner took place on April 10, at the Hôtel Ritz, and was the occasion of a great display of enthusiastic national rejoicing. Mr. H. H. Harjes presided — the French Government that very day had created him a Knight of the Legion of Honour, and since then has promoted him Commander in the great Order — and those present, in addition to the American Ambassador, the Hon. W. G. Sharp, and all the members of the A.R.C.H., included: M. René Viviani, Admiral Lacaze, M. Léon Bourgeois, M. Albert Thomas, M. Th. Steeg, M. Albert Métin, M. René Besnard, M. Justin Godart, representing various departments of the French Government and parliamentary activity; M. de Brocqueville, Belgian Premier and Minister of War, the British, Russian, Italian and Japanese Ambassadors; M. Milenko Vesnitch, Serbian Minister to France; M. Lahovary, Roumanian Minister; General Claudel, representing General Nivelle, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces in France; M. Delanney, Prefect of the Seine; M. Mithouard, President of the Paris Municipal Council; M. Paul Appell, President of the "Secours National," M. Gabriel Hanotaux, M. Henri-Robert.

Mr. Harjes in an admirable, inspiriting speech, and in a tone that revealed heartfelt emotion, paid a glowing tribute to the heroism and grandeur of the French *poilu* and to the French nation of which the confidence in ultimate victory had never wavered; and in concluding he declared his absolute conviction that the participation of the United States meant the early overthrow of the common enemy and the triumph of Right, the supreme ideal of the Allies. M. Viviani, in an extempore speech of singular power and beauty, thanked Americans for their generous help, exercised through the A.R.C.H., and for their intervention in the cause of justice. "*When, united, irrespective of race,*" he said, "*we shall have saved democracy, we can lay the palm of justice like a precious flower upon the graves of our immortal dead.*" M. de Brocqueville, in the name of the Belgian martyrs thanked the United States whose entry into the war sounded the death-knell of the sanguinary theory that might is Right, the theory which Germany had been trying for nearly three years to impose on the world. M. Vesnitch spoke pathetically of invaded, mutilated Serbia and of her gratitude to France and the United States. The American Ambassador, Mr. Sharp, closed the

speeches with an eloquent homage to France "*who has*," he said, "*led the civilized world along the path to victory.*" He dwelt on the heroism of the armies of little Belgium and Serbia, and wound up with a tribute of admiration for President Wilson's prophetic insight and his courage in leading the American people to their rightful place on the side of those who were fighting for Liberty and Justice. "*Suffering humanity,*" he said, "*is under a durable debt of gratitude to him for that inestimable service.*" M. Viviani brought the meeting to a close by thanking the individual speakers and proposing a toast to President Wilson, "*the noble successor of Washington and Lincoln.*"

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At the meeting of the Allies Committee, to which reference has been made, there was also a great scene of patriotic enthusiasm. M. Gabriel Hanotaux voiced the gratitude of France for the entry into the war of America, the latest testimony to the justice of the French cause, and dwelt with grateful appreciation upon the services the A.R.C.H. had rendered. "*You helped us greatly before your national Government took its grand decision,*" he said, addressing the CLEARING HOUSE committee. "*You were here, with us, upholding us, binding up our wounds, relieving our distress not only with material aid but with moral encouragement. Whenever we turned to America, you responded to our appeal. We thank you from a full heart. We, the French, are proud to be your Allies, to be linked together in the same spiritual brotherhood and with the same ideals that united the new-born Republic and France in the War of Independence.*"

Mr. Beatty and Rev. Dr. Watson replied, in the temporary absence of Mr. Harjes, who had gone to the Chamber of Deputies for the historic sitting at which America's entrance into the war was officially announced. It was upon his return from the Chamber, after describing the great demonmonstration he had witnessed, that Mr. Harjes made the pregnant remark referred to above: "*You have had American aid,*" he said; "*now you are going to have the aid of America.*"

The difference was immeasurable; and the change soon

began to make itself felt. The first definite indication of the vast operations in Europe contemplated by the American Red Cross was contained in a personal message cabled to Mr. Harjes in the third week of April. It announced that relief work on a big scale was to be undertaken and asked : " *How much money can you use immediately and for what purposes ?* " That was a promising beginning. What followed was equally promising ; for the despatch continued : " *Specify detail of equipment and supplies you will require when transportation is available. Do you need men from here to add to the present organization carrying on American relief? If so, what kind.* "

The message, though not official, clearly indicates that at first the idea of continuing the work of relief through the agency already existing, the A.R.C.H., was entertained. Another indication was the receipt of $250,000 from the Red Cross of which sum $100,000 were for the distribution work of the CLEARING HOUSE. Mr. Harjes was the delegate of the American Red Cross. The A.R.C.H. was its official representative in relief work. Furthermore, the results achieved by the Clearing House were universally extolled. Hence, many reasons militated in favour of maintaining an organization that had proved its officiency, and could be enlarged to any extent necessary. On the other hand, with America a belligerent, measures became not only practicable, but essential, that previously were impossible. To ensure the fullest return from the available transport resources, the services, first, for the American forces in Europe, secondly for relief work in Europe, must be centralized. And centralization by the Red Cross meant the end of independence for the A.R.C.H.

One thing was clear : a comprehensive programme of relief work in Europe was being drawn up in Washington. But the information received in Paris was only general until the arrival there of Major Grayson M. P. Murphy, a former cadet of West Point, an eminent financier, and the American Red Cross High Commissioner for Europe.

Major Murphy, with the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. James H. Perkins, and the High Commission, composed of a number of specialists in relief work, transportation, and administration, reached Paris on June 13th. In six days he had measured up the situation, resources, and

needs, and had begun to grapple with his stupendous two-fold task : the organization of all the Red Cross work necessary for the American armed forces, and the prosecution on an immense scale of relief work in Europe Protracted conferences were held with the Executive Committee of the A.R.C.H., to determine the most effective line on which to conduct future relief operations. Study of the matter in detail and from every point of view, brought the Commission and the CLEARING HOUSE to the conclusion that the task confronting America made a new organization, established on a military basis, essential. That new organization, created in view of the work to be done, was " The American Red Cross for France and Belgium. " Major Murphy headed it, with Mr. Perkins as his Assistant. Mr. H. H. Harjes accepted appointment to the post of High Commissioner for France and Belgium, and Mr. H. O. Beatty to the post of Director-General.

An advisory Councii was formed. It consisted of the American Ambassador, the Hon. William G. Sharp ; and Mr. James Stillman and Mr. Edward Tuck, both among the most generous contributors to the CLEARING HOUSE funds. The machine-like perfection of the A.R.C.H. organization is indirectly acknowledged in the new arrangements. The existing departments of the CLEARING HOUSE system were retained, other departments being formed to deal, for the American Army, with :

Civil Affairs,
Military Affairs,
Engineering,
Administration,
Social Conditions,
Transportation,
Finance, and Information ;

each department under a responsible head exercising corresponding authority.

These arrangements agreed upon as imperative, it was decided that the new organization should begin operations immediately, the Paris CLEARING HOUSE to retire from further independent action in the sphere of relief work. The decision was not taken without regret. It was sad to lose personality and become merely part of a machine. But that is war : " *c'est la guerre.* " Hitherto, the CLEARING

HOUSE had been animated solely by a desire to relieve distress. That desire had now become subordinate to the determination to concentrate every energy upon the work of winning the war. So the immolation of the A.R.C.H., the child of the Committee, was accepted, if not joyously, at any rate without hesitation.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was called at the offices, 5, Rue François I, for June 19th, at six o'clock. Major Murphy attended it. The others present were: Mr. H. H. Harjes (Chairman); Mr. Walter Abbott, Mr. James R. Barbour, Mr. H. O. Beatty, Mr. J. Ridgeley Carter, Mr. Hugh R. Griffin, Mr. James H. Hyde, Mr. Randolph Mordecai, Mr. George Munroe, Mr. M. P. Peixotto, Mr. Ralph Preston, Rev. Dr. Watson; also Mr. James H. Perkins, Mr. Carl Taylor, of the Red Cross Commission, and Mr. Charles R. Scott.

Major Murphy, welcomed by the Chairman, sketched the plans drawn up tentatively for the employment in European relief operations of the immense sums which were being raised in America. In behalf of the Committee, Mr. Harjes expressed the satisfaction that Major Murphy's generous views and far-sighted projects gave to the members. And, interpreting the unanimous sentiment of the Executive Committee, he put at the disposal of "The American Red Cross for France and Belgium" the entire organization of the A.R.C.H. to be used in any manner that could best serve to carry out the magnificent programme of the Red Cross. Mr. Preston, representing THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES, New York, said that its views coincided in every respect with those of the Red Cross and that it would support any action decided upon by the A.R.C.H.

The unanimity as regards aims and means of attaining them led to the passing of a resolution that must be given in full:

"WHEREAS, *this Corporation*. THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, INCORPORATED, *has since its organization been engaged in receiving and distributing supplies and other forms of relief originating in America and destined for France and her Allies, and in other work authorized by its Charter; and*

"WHEREAS, *the American Red Cross has adopted new plans for the more effective direction and control of its work and in connection therewith the President of the United States who is also President of the American Red Cross, has appointed a War Council with full authority to carry on the work of the American Red Cross at home and abroad; and*

"WHEREAS, *the War Council of the American Red Cross has commissioned one of its members, Major Grayson M.P. Murphy, to take charge of the work of the American Red Cross in Europe, and Major Murphy with a large staff of assistants has come to France for the purpose of taking charge of such work, and has developed a plan for carrying on relief work in Europe which includes among other things work of the same character as that heretofore carried on by this corporation; and*

"WHEREAS, *in view of the ability of the American Red Cross to obtain very large sums of money for its work, greatly in excess of the amounts obtainable for such purposes by this Corporation, and the extensive organization which the American Red Cross will have in Europe (which will include in its personnel a great majority of the persons now connected with the work of this Corporation) the Executive Committee believes that hereafter such work can be carried on and developed more effectively by the American Red Cross acting through the organization above mentioned, and that in consequence it is for the interest of France and her Allies that this Corporation now discontinue its work.*

"NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED:

"*First. That as soon as the Administrative Committee of this Corporation is satisfied that the American Red Cross is prepared to take up and continue the work now carried on by this Corporation, such Committee is authorized and directed to discontinue the work of this Corporation and to make the necessary arrangements with the American Red Cross for the carrying out of such work by it except as hereinafter stated.*

"*Second. That all money and supplies held by this Corporation at the time the work of this Corporation is taken over as aforesaid by the American Red Cross, including such as have been delivered to the representatives of the Corporation in America for delivery by it to some individual committee*

or Society in Europe, shall continue to be disposed of by this Corporation as if these resolutions had not been adopted.

"*Third. That upon or prior to the taking over of the work of this Corporation, instructions shall be sent to the proper representatives of this Corporation in America to the effect that they shall notify persons who have heretofore contributed supplies of funds to this Corporation or from whom this Corporation has accepted supplies for delivery by it to other individuals, committees or societies, that this Corporation has decided to discontinue its work, and that hereafter all such contributions should be made to the American Red Cross to be disposed of as it in its discretion may determine.*

"*Fourth. That the Director-General of this Corporation is authorized to sell or lease to, or otherwise permit the use by, the American Red Cross, of all automobiles, office furniture, office supplies, and equipment, and any other property of this Corporation useful in carrying on the work to be continued by the American Red Cross upon such terms as the Administrative Committee of this Corporation shall approve.*

"*Fifth. That the proper officers of this Corporation are authorized and directed to give such notices, to execute such papers, and to perform such acts as they shall deem necessary or advisable in order to carry out the purpose and intent of those Resolutions.*"

* * *

Is the document reproduced above the "death certificate" of the A.R.C.H? The question was raised three days later at a meeting of the Executive Committee. There was some ground for uncertainty. The resolutions declare that the Committee "*is authorized and directed to discontinue the work.*" Does not that signify that the CLEARING HOUSE had passed out of existence? By no means. It had merely "*discontinued*" its work. For how long? It is possible to lay down only a general principle covering that point. The Committee was "*to make the necessary arrangements with the American Red Cross for the carrying on of such work by it.*" Obviously, then, the A.R.C.H. "*discontinued*" the work only during such time as the American Red Cross might continue it. The essential thing was that the work be carried on, if necessary. Should the Red Cross step out, the A.R.C.H. was empowered, if

it saw fit, to step in. This was so decidedly the view of the Committee that on June 22nd it was declared by an unanimous vote that the resolutions of June 19th were to be so interpreted, and that "*the* CLEARING HOUSE *would resume said work at such time when it does not interfere with the work of the American Red Cross.*" The CLEARING HOUSE was not to be regarded as defunct. It was in a state of "watchful waiting."

It had represented the Red Cross in France for two and one-half years. America having entered the war, the Red Cross became its own representative. But while the work of relief was now being carried *on* under the supreme authority of the American Government — for that, in the last resort, is what the change amounted to — it was being carried *out* largely by the men who, under the insignia of the A.R.C.H. had taken American aid to so many parts of Europe. The CLEARING HOUSE had "discontinued;" but the CLEARING HOUSE men were "continuing." The personnel, or a large majority of it, enrolled in the Red Cross. For at the decisive meeting of June 19th, Mr. James Hazen Hyde proposed, and the proposition was unanimously adopted, that the services of the members of the A.R.C.H. "*as a body, should be put at the disposal of Major Murphy to the extent that each man's personal affairs would permit.*"

* * *

The A.R.C.H. was the apex of a triangle of which THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, New York, and the Allies Committee, Paris, constituted the basic angles. Having concluded an arrangement with the American Red Cross, it had now to conclude agreements with its auxiliaries. In point of time, the one first settled was with the Allies Committee. But the correspondence exchanged in the negotiations with the WAR RELIEF committee throws further light on the decisions taken in Paris; and for the sake of clarity, the WAR RELIEF matter shall be dealt with first. The two Committees were in perfect agreement; Mr. Preston's remarks at the Paris meeting sufficiently prove that; it was merely a question of arranging concerted action on the part of the dual organization. Following the meeting of June 19th, a cablegram was sent to "WA-

RELIEF" by the A.R.C.H. It gave an outline of the arrangements made with the American Red Cross, laid stress on the necessity of co-operation with the national Red Cross, and, it continued :

"*In order to make this co-operation effective, we suggest that* WARELIEF *notify its usual contributors of the change which has taken place in Paris and that from and after the* 1st *of September next, supplies and funds will no longer be accepted for distribution or clearance. The supplies and funds in Paris will be distributed in accordance with the terms of their contribution. Except as above, further donations should be accepted by* WARELIEF *only upon the basis of complete discretionary distribution by the American Red Cross for France and Belgium.*"

Lest that stipulation should act as a deterrent in the campaign to raise funds for relief work, a reassuring statement was appended :

"*It is distinctly the intention and policy of 'The American Red Cross for France and Belgium' to protect and to guarantee a full measure of liberty to all American relief works and French societies now existing, the only condition to be required of them being that of efficient co-operation and co-ordination of their work with theirs*" (i.e. : that of the American Red Cross) "*under which circumstances, aid and assistance from the resources of the new institution will be extended them under reasonable restrictions and in a measure proportionate to their needs.*"

Although so indisputably advisable, the merging of the A.R.C.H. into The American Red Cross for France and Belgium was a bombshell for the societies that had been working so hard to aid France and her Allies. Liberty is sweet : the relief organizations did not relish the thought of surrendering their independence to become merely a cog in a huge wheel of charity. THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE was inundated with letters from indignant committees. Traces of the discussion are plentiful in the cablegrams exchanged between Paris and New York at this time. You state, cables "WARELIEF," that a full measure of liberty is guaranteed to all American Relief works and French societies now existing. "*Are we to understand that 'The American Fund for French Wounded,' 'The*

National Surgical Dressings' Committee, 'The Secours National,' and other responsible committees in the United States, will be allowed to send supplies as usual to their distributing agencies in France through the Red Cross?"

Naturally, that precisely was not to be understood. Regret it as one might, relief operations in Europe could be continued only on a fresh basis. Just as the A.R.C.H. had been necessary to centralize the work in the period of neutrality, the centralization plan thought out by the American Red Cross was necessary now in the interest first of the Army, then of civilians. Supplies for relief associations had been transported with difficulty before; with America at war they could not be transported at all except as part, a subordinate part, of the military transportation work. The whole of the available shipping was more than ever insufficient now that America was sending men and war material to France in steadily increasing numbers and volume.

The decision to which most objection was taken was the one compelling donors to leave the distribution of their donations completely to the discretion of the American Red Cross. But the decision was fully justified. The American Red Cross was preparing to supply urgent needs from stores in its warehouses. It was but reasonable that the stores should be replenished from gifts sent for those whom the Red Cross was aiding. Suffering in Europe could be alleviated only through co-operation; and co-operation implies some sacrifice of self. But the protests were so numerous and the objections raised so multifarious, that the A.R.C.H. finally cabled from Paris a statement for transmission by THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE to the societies, numbering about 6,000, for which it had been acting. It ran as follows:

> *"Owing to a possible misconception of the policy of the Red Cross in France, it seems desirable to emphasize that on and after September 1st it will be impossible to accept goods other than for the discretionary disposition of the Red Cross. The reasons taken for this stand are:*
>
> *"1st. The proposed militarization of the Red Cross and the immediate responsibility incurred by*

it for the personnel of all existing societies operating in the war zone;

"*2nd. The fact that all tonnage available for the shipment of supplies from America will be inadequate for the requirements of the Red Cross and the Army;*

"*3rd. The only way the Red Cross can supervise and control the activities of existing Societies is to have their entire co-operation under rules laid down by the Red Cross which will be governed by the military needs and other existing conditions;*

"*4th. Such societies as enter into the spirit of the Red Cross endeavour will be utilized and supported to the extent of the resources available for those purposes, and it is hoped and believed that those resources will be greatly in excess of the supplies hitherto distributed by these societies;*

"*5th. It is, therefore, desirable that the corresponding societies in America should, if they please, continue their identity, working for the general good and sending their donations to the Red Cross for discretionary distribution in order that at all times that organization shall be in a position of affording the greatest amount of relief not only through its own administration but through the channels through which it may elect to operate.*"

This statement was followed up by a Message from the Red Cross Commission in Paris to American contributors of funds and material for the relief of France and her Allies. It was issued on August 29th, two days before the expiration of the period of grace allowed for independent action, and was signed by Major Murphy, J. H. Perkins, Homer Folks, William Endicott, Winslow S. Pierce, Carl Taylor, and H. H. Harjes. It went over ground now familiar; but in the opening sentences it paid a just tribute to the "*wonderful*" work of the pioneers in relief operations abroad:

"*The work done during the first three years of the war by those Americans, both in France and America, who gave their money, time, and strength to relieve the suffering among the Allies, should be publicly acknow-*

ledged as a great example of self-sacrifice and generosity, and to the people who carried on this work all homage and thanks are due. Their work has been necessary and has been well done, and because of it the American people are in a position to continue work of that character which would have been impossible otherwise."

The Message declared emphatically that :

"*No new organisation coming into the field now has any right to take action which will in any way diminish the credit which is due to the existing societies and organizations, or which will in any way lessen the effectiveness of their work.*"

But only new machinery could meet the new and enormous difficulties that had arisen as a consequence of America's entry into the war. The point was discussed fully and the Message concluded with an appeal for united co-operation with the Red Cross to "*carry out the desire which all have in their heart to render the greatest possible service in the difficulties of the existing situation.*"

The Message was accompanied by a Recommendation from relief workers in Paris whose indefatigable efforts in the cause of charity had given further lustre to the name of America. It said :

"*We, the undersigned, approve and endorse the above Message from the Red Cross Commission in Paris to the War Council, dated August 29th; and with our knowledge of the situation and our experience of the ground here, we recommend to our friends and fellow-workers at home the acceptance of the views and the adoption of the plan proposed in that Message.*"

The Recommendation was signed by : Mrs. Edith Wharton, Mrs. William H. Hills, Mrs. Edward Tuck, Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Dr. Joseph A. Blake, Mr. August F. Jacacci, Mr. Atherton Curtis, Mrs. E. W. Shurtleff, Mr. Walter V. R. Berry, Mrs. C. E. Austin, Mr. John Gardner Coolidge, Mrs. Benjamin G. Lathrop, Mrs. R. W. Bliss, Mr. Edward Tuck, Miss Anna Murray Vail, Mrs. Charles R. Scott, Mr. Whitney Warren, Mrs. Phillip Bérard.

And whatever might still be lacking to bring the national body of relief workers into line for acceptance of the Red Cross plan was supplied by General Pershing who cabled to the War Council of the American Red Cross :

> *" Reference telegram regarding Red Cross situation sent you by representatives here, their statement was prepared after consultation with me and meets my entire approval. Red Cross Service here is being systematically organized on practical basis, and similar organizations are being brought under one control as far as possible. Conditions to be met in France this winter are serious, and organization of Red Cross as well as Y.M.C.A. must be thoroughly completed in advance. This work of the Red Cross will be for American soldiers, French soldiers, and for deserving French people who have suffered from three years of war. It involves a tremendous task and must be supported by expenditure of large sums of money. The work cannot be done without thorough organization along military lines which Red Cross officials here are rapidly perfecting. Consider Red Cross management here extremely efficient and worthy of unqualified support from you, and of our whole people."*

The case could now be closed, and was closed. No demurrer was possible after that authoritative and diplomatic *communiqué*. It cemented a " sacred union " in the field of charity, and won whole-hearted approval for the decisions taken by the A.R.C.H. and " WARELIEF. "

***

The formal endorsement of the Allies Committee had been given long before. As a matter of courtesy, Mr. Harjes, and Mr. Whitney Warren, Vice-President of the A.R.C.H., called on M. Hanotaux, President of the Allies Committee, immediately after the meeting of June 19th, to inform him of the decisions taken and the reasons for taking them. M. Hanotaux, commending the changes, suggested that a farewell meeting of the Allies Committee be called. It was held on June 28th, and attended by : M. Hanotaux (Chairman) ; M. G. Payelle, M. J. Branet,

M. Emile Ogier, M. A. Legrand, Vicomte d'Harcourt, Captain Bugat-Pujol, M. Marraud, M. H. Ponsot, M. Rémond, M. Firmin Roz, M. Radovanovitch, M. Sevastopoulo, Prince Poggio-Suasa, M. Lahovary, Major Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Harjes, Mr. Ridgeley Carter, Mr. Charles Carroll, Rev. Dr. S. N. Watson, Mr. Hugh Reid Griffin, Mr. Whitney Warren and Mr. Randolph Mordecai.

In behalf of the Allies Committee, Mr. Hanotaux greeted Major Murphy and summarized the changes that America's participation in the war rendered essential. The duty of the A.R.C.H. was clear : it was to place itself wholly at the disposal of the American Government, and it had done so. The Allies Committee acquiesced in the decisions of the Clearing House of which it was an auxiliary. M. Hanotaux then drew attention to the fact that the A.R.C.H. remained in existence, not only for the completion of relief operations in course of execution, but also in view of possible action in the future. "*Indeed,*" he said :

> "*the* CLEARING HOUSE *cannot disappear. It has a permanent place in history. It does not belong to itself : it has sown enduring benefits and its work has not yet reached full fruition. Its ensign is entitled to a place among those of the victors on our day of victory, for it was charity that pointed out the path to an alliance. That is why, accepting unreservedly the decisions of the American Red Cross acting under the authority of its Government, we think that the organizahicn which had the merit of leading the way should not disappear completely. I would add that circumstances may arise for the vitality latent in the* CLEARING HOUSE *to show itself. For example, in the work before us, it may seem necessary to call together a group representing the different branches of the French Administration, the Red Cross and other services of the Allies. It would be difficult to find another body so competent to convene with equal rapidity, such a group to confer on any question. We have in you a reliable and recognized medium for the solution of difficulties not susceptible of being rapidly dealt with otherwise. In such circumstances the* CLEARING HOUSE *might still prove of service.*
>
> "*And now, let me add that France is infinitely*

indebted to you. I have not the eloquence to tell you, as forcibly as I should like, how much we owe to you, and to express the grateful sentiments that your great work has grafted in our hearts. Those sentiments are common to all of us and have been strengthened daily. There is not a single day since the foundation of your organization unmarked by some proof of your generosity and kindliness. You have built up the grandeur of the present moment. For the soldiers you have saved, for the hospitals you have helped, for the services you have rendered, our hearts say: Thanks!"

Mr. Harjes, in the name of the CLEARING HOUSE, thanked M. Hanotaux; and the meeting adjourned *sine die*. The Executive Committee met twice, on June 29th and August 24th, to settle routine details concerning the accounts, and adjourned finally "*subject to the call of the Chair.*" But from June 20th, Mars was in command at the CLEARING HOUSE. A fortnight later, on July Fourth, the first contingent of America's armed might marched through the streets of Paris amid scenes of joy that were surpassed only by those that toward the close of the following year hailed the victory which that march-past in Paris had heralded.

* * *

As in a theatre, the eyes of men,
After a well-grac'd actor leaves the stage,
Are idly bent on him that enters next...

THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE disappeared from the stage. But it is neither dead nor forgotten. M. Hanotaux is right : it is an undying memory. It knits together in ever close union, America and France. Were that its sole achievement, even so it would deserve the most grateful thanks of mankind. But it achieved more, much more. The offspring of War and Compassion, it brought relief to the suffering and hope to the sorrowing. The visitor to St. Paul's is struck by the tablet to Wren, the architect, with its stately inscription : *Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.* " If ye seek his monument, look around! " So might one say of THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE. Its history is woven into and told by the manifold and successful efforts of a glorious phalanx of associations which succoured those in pain and want. Their work of love is its best, enduring record.

Officers and Staff of the A.R.C.H.

(Appendix I).

American Relief Clearing House

(COMITÉ CENTRAL DES SECOURS AMÉRICAINS)

Rue François I^er^
Paris

American Relief Clearing House

(COMITÉ CENTRAL DES SECOURS AMÉRICAINS)

Under the distinguished patronage of

MONSIEUR RAYMOND POINCARÉ, *President of the French Republic*
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE CZAR OF RUSSIA
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SERBIA
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF MONTENEGRO

Honorary Presidents :

HON. MYRON T. HERRICK HON. ROBERT BACON

President : H. HERMAN HARJES
Vice-President : WHITNEY WARREN
Director General : H. O. BEATTY
Secretary : CHARLES CARROLL
Assistant Secretary : RANDOLPH MORDECAI
Treasurer : HON. J. RIDGELEY CARTER
Comptroller : M. P. PEIXOTTO
Assistant Comptroller : FRANK B. GIBSON

Executive Committee :

H. HERMAN HARJES, *Chairman*
H. O. BEATTY GEORGE MUNROE CHARLES CARROLL
HON. J. RIDGELEY CARTER J. J. HOFF HUGH R. GRIFFIN
RALPH PRESTON WALTER ABBOTT WHITNEY WARREN
REV. DR. S. N. WATSON JAMES R. BARBOUR
JAMES H. HYDE M. P. PEIXOTTO RANDOLPH MORDECAI
CHARLES R. SCOTT, *Hon. Secretary*

Administrative Committee :

H. O. BEATTY WALTER ABBOTT
RANDOLPH MORDECAI JAMES R. BARBOUR

Hon. Auditors : DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS & CO.
Accountants : MARWICK, MITCHELL, PEAT & CO.

The Offices, 5, Rue François Ier, have been kindly donated by Monsieur le COMTE GÉRARD DE GANAY

Warehouses : 25, Rue Pierre-Charron, has been kindly donated by Madame la DUCHESSE DE TALLEYRAND ;

Three baraques at the Entrepôt des Dons, donated by the Service de Santé Militaire ;

Marché, 3, rue Maleville donated by the Ville de Paris.

General Committee:

Walter Abbott
Frederick H. Allen
Hon. Robert Bacon
Prof. J. Mark Baldwin
James R. Barbour
C. Inman Barnard
H. O. Beatty
L. V. Benét
Charles Butler
Rev. Ernest Bysshe
Henry Cachard
Charles Carroll
Hon. J. Ridgeley Carter
H. E. Chapman
Wm. Henry Conklin
W. T. Dannat
Francis E. Drake
Hon. W. Cameron Forbes
Charles Freeborn
Walter Gay
Frank B. Gibson
Persifor F. Gibson
Carroll Greenough
Hugh R. Griffin
H. Herman Harjes
W. S. Hilles
Hon. Myron T. Herrick
J. J. Hoff
William S. Hogan
Wm. T. P. Hollingsworth
James H. Hyde
Frederick R. King
Le Roy King
Arthur Kingsland
Charly Knight
Ridgway Knight
T. A. La Porte
Duc de Loubat
Henry W. Miller
F. W. Monahan
Randolph Mordecai
Junius S. Morgan
T. Bentley Mott
George Munroe
G. R. Ostheimer
John K. Page
Wm. S. Patten
M. P. Peixotto
Chas S. Phillips
Ralph Preston
Francis B. Riggs
William H. Riggs
Elmer Roberts
John Bryan Robinson
P. Lorillard Ronalds
Francis Santos-Suarez
Lorenzo Santos-Suarez
Henry T. Shelton
B. J. Shoninger
W. P. Simms
James Stillman
Howard Sturges
Hon. A. M. Thackara
Edward Tuck
L. V. Twyeffort
Herbert Ward
Whitney Warren
Rev. Dr. S. N. Watson
Alfonse D. Weil
Jas. A. Wigmore
Irving G. Will
Bertram Winthrop

Sub-Committee of Distribution:

Rev. Dr. S. N. Watson, *Chairman*
Walter Abbott
Frederick H. Allen
Charles Butler
Charles Carroll
Persifor Gibson
Hugh R. Griffin
J. J. Hoff
James H. Hyde
Charly Knight
George Munroe
John K. Page
Whitney Warren
Bertram Winthrop

In Charge of Filing Department:

Miss Marian Will

Lady Volunteers:

Mrs. Sewell
Mrs. Sisco
Miss Owings
Miss Colvin

Comité Central Français des Secours Américains
OF THE
AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

Under the distinguished patronage of
MONSIEUR RAYMOND POINCARÉ
Président de la République Française

Président :
M. GABRIEL HANOTAUX

Vice-Président :
M. MANUEL BAUDOUIN

Membres :

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M. PAUL APPELL
M. LOUIS BARTHOU
M. LÉON BOURGEOIS
M. JEAN BRANET
M. BRISAC
M. le CAPITAIN BUGAT-PUJOL
M. LE Lieutenant ÉDOUARD CHAMPION
M. J. G. DARBOUX
M. LE CAPITAINE DE FRÉGATE DURAND-VIEL
M. LE VICOMTE d'HARCOURT
M. G. L. JARAY
M. ÉTIENNE LAMY
M. ALFRED LEVY
M. ALBERT LEGRAND
M. MARRAUD
M. MORAIN
MGR. ODELIN
M. EMILE OGIER
M. GEORGES PAYELLE
M. PERSIL
M. LE PASTEUR J. PFENDER
M. DE PIESSAC
M. HENRI PONSOT
M. REBATEL
M. ROMAN
M. SABATIER
M. SOUCHON
M. LE COMTE L. DE VOGUÉ

Secrétaire : M. FIRMIN ROZ

Comité Central Russe des Secours Américains
OF THE
AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

Under the distinguished patronage of
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE CZAR OF RUSSIA

Président :

S. Ex. M. A. ISWOLSKY
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire

Membres :

MME A. ISWOLSKY
MME LA COMTESSE TYSZKIEWICZ
M. SEVASTOPOULO, *Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Russie*
M. LE COLONEL COMTE IGNATIEFF, *Attaché Militaire*
M. LE COLONEL OZNOBISCHINE
M. LE CAPITAINE DE FRÉGATE DMITRIEFF, *Attaché Naval*
S. E. M. RAFFALOVITCH
Attaché Commercial, Agent du Ministère des Finances
M. SERGE ZARINE, *Consul-Général*
M. PADEREWSKY
M. LE COMTE N. POTOCKI
M. M. MAVROGORDATO
M. D. DE POLIAKOFF
M. LÉON BRODSKY
M. JEAN DE RESZKE
M. MAURICE EPHRUSSI
M. PAWLOVSKY
M. BAKST

Comité Central Belge des Secours Américains
OF THE
AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

Under the distinguished patronage of
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS

Président :
M. CARTON DE WIART, *Ministre de la Justice de Belgique*

Vice-Président :
M. BERRYER, *Ministre de l'Intérieur de Belgique*

Membres :

S. A. R. Mme LA DUCHESSE DE VENDOME
M. le BARON DE GAIFFIER D'HESTROY
Ministre de Belgique à Paris
M. DE SADELEER, *Ministre d'Etat*
M. PAUL HYMANS, *Ministre d'Etat*
M. VAN DER VELDE, *Ministre d'Etat*
M. le BARON DE VINCK
Ministre Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi des Belges
M. le Lt.-Général MÉLIS
M. le BARON EMPAIN
M. le COMTE VAN DER STRATEN
1er Secrétaire de la Légation de S. M. le Roi des Belges à Paris
M. le PRINCE HENRI DE LIGNE
Secrétaire de Légation de S. M. le Roi des Belges
M. le DOCTEUR COLLET
M. L'ABBÉ MOYERSOEN, *Directeur de l'Œuvre des Flamands*
M. le BARON DE ZUYLEN DE NYVELT
M. le BARON DEL MARMOL
M. ROLAND DE MARÈS
M. CHARLES NICAISE
M. JOSSE GOFFIN
M. BRUNEEL
M. FÉLIX OPPENHEIM
M. DUMONT WILDEN

Comité Central Italien des Secours Américains
OF THE
AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

Under the distinguished patronage of
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY

Président :
S. E. M. LE MARQUIS SALVAGO RAGGI
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire

Membres :
MME LA MARQUISE SALVAGO RAGGI
PRINCE DE POGGIO-SUASA, *Conseiller de l'Ambassade Royale*
COMTE LUCCHESI-PALLI, *Consul-Général*
INGÉNIEUR DELLA RICCIA
Président de la Chambre de Commerce Italienne
PROFESSEUR COLETTI, *Vice-Consul*
L'AVOCAT MAURICE SICORI, *Conseil de l'Ambassade Royale*
LE CHEVALIER DOMENICO RUSSO
Représentant des Correspondants de Journaux Italiens
LE CHEVALIER CARLO COLETTI
Président de la Fédération des Sociétés Ouvrières Italiennes

Comité Cent. Serbo-Monténégrin des Secours Américains
OF THE
AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

Under the distinguished patronage of
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SERBIA
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF MONTENEGRO

Président :
M. VESNITCH, *Ministre de Serbie*

Membres :
MME VESNITCH
M. GRÉGOIRE YAKCHITCH
M. LE LT.-COL. JOKSIMOVITCH
DR. SVETOLIK RADOVANOVITCH

Comité Roumano-Américain
OF THE
AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

Under the distinguished patronage of

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA

Président :

S. E. M. ALEXANDRE EM. LAHOVARY, *Ministre de Roumanie*

Membres :

MADAME LAHOVARY
PRINCESSE BRANCOVAN, *Douairière*
PRINCE BRANCOVAN
PRINCE JEAN CALLIMACHI
M. ALEXIS CATARGI
PRINCE LÉON CANTACUZÈNE
M. JEAN LAHOVARY
MADAME MICHEL MARGHILOMAN
COMTESSE ODON DE MONTESQUIOU-FEZENSAC
MADAME DE NUOVINA
M. MICHEL SOUTZO
MADAME EUGÈNE STATESCO
PRINCESSE DEMETRE SOUTZO
MADAME LA GÉNÉRALE VACARESCO
M. NICOLAS XANTHO

CORRESPONDING BODY IN THE UNITED STATES

The War Relief Clearing House for France and Her Allies

Executive Offices:
40, WALL STREET, CITY OF NEW YORK

Honorary President:
HON. JOSEPH H. CHOATE

Honorary Vice-Presidents:
HON. ROBERT BACON HON. MYRON T. HERRICK
MR. WILLIAM F. McCOMBS
MR. FRANK H. MASON

President:
MR. A. BARTON HEPBURN

Vice-Presidents:
MESSRS. S. R. BERTRON, FRED. I. KENT, W. T. P. HOLLINGSWORTH, LLOYD WARREN, W. FORBES MORGAN, R. L BACON

Treasurer:
MR. THOMAS W. LAMONT

Executive Committee:
MESSRS. HORACE E. ANDREWS, EDMUND L. BAYLIES, C. A. COFFIN, WILLIAM GREENOUGH, FRANCIS LOUIS SLADE, HENRY W. TAFT, CHARLES R. BANGS, RALPH PRESTON, CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, WHITNEY WARREN, AND EX-OFFICIO THE OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES

Secretary of Executive Committee:
MR. WALBRIDGE S. TAFT

Chairman of Finance Committee:
MR. HORACE E. ANDREWS

Chairman of Committee on Foreign Relations:
MR. E. C. BACON

Chairman of Transportation Committee:
MR. B. D. CALDWELL

Chairman of Purchasing Committee:
MR. FREDERICK A. JUILLIARD

Chairman of Auditing Committee:
MR. JAMES MARWICK

Executive Secretary:
MR. CLYDE A. PRATT

Assistant Secretary:
MR. YALE W. BURTCH

APPENDIX II

Certificate of Incorporation

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

We, the undersigned, all being persons of full age and at least two thirds being citizens of the United States and at least one of us a resident of the State of New York, do pursuant to the provisions of the Membership Corporations Law of the State of New York hereby make sign acknowledge and file this amended certificate for the purpose as follows :

First. — The name of the proposed corporation is THE AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE INCORPORATED.

Second. — The purposes for which it is to be formed are : to centralize as far as possible the receipts of all relief from America destined for France and her Allies ; to investigate the needs of all localities and by constant advice to prevent overlapping and duplication ; to distribute to best advantage according to the information received any relief which may be entrusted to its discretion and to keep and render strict account of the same.

As incident to said purposes :

1. to forward to destination relief supplies consigned through it to particular societies by individuals, corporations and societies in America and intended for France and her Allies ;

2. to receive money and purchase supplies either with or without definitive instructions as to distribution ;

3. to provide means of transportation from America to France, Great Britain, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, Russia, Italy and Japan at best rates or free of charge whenever possible.

4. to do any act or thing necessary to accomplish the work of relief for France and her Allies.

Third. — The territories in which its operations are to be principally conducted are the United States, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, Russia and such countries as may hereafter become the allies of France in the present war.

Fourth. — Its principal office is to be located at N° 15 Broad Street in the City of New York, and branch-offices may be located in Paris, France, and elsewhere, as provided by the By-Laws.

Fifth. — Its duration is to be ten years.

Sixth. — The number of its directors shall be sixteen.

Seventh. — The names and places of residence of its directors until the first annual meeting shall be :

Walter Abbott,	4, rue Thiers, Paris, France.
Chas. Carroll,	18, rue Vaneau, Paris, France.
George Munroe,	1, rue Charles - Lamoureux, Paris, France.
Whitney Warren,	22, East 47th Street, New York City. : to hold office until the annual meeting of 1917 ;
J. H. Hyde,	38, rue Barbet de Jouy, Paris, France.
S. N. Watson,	23, avenue de l'Alma, Paris, France.
H. Herman Harjes,	37, boulevard Richard Wallace, Paris, France.
Ralph Preston,	Red Bank, New Jersey, U.S.A. : to hold office until the annual meeting of 1918 ;
C. R. Scott,	5, rue François Ier, Paris, France.
J. Ridgeley Carter,	Hôtel Ritz, Paris, France.
James R. Barbour,	4, rue Gaston de St. Paul, Paris, France.
H. O. Beatty,	11, rue d'Astorg, Paris, France. : to hold office until the annual meeting of 1919 ;
Hugh R. Griffin,	148, boulevard de la Villette, Paris, France.
J. J. Hoff,	80, avenue du Bois de Boulogne, Paris, France.
M. P. Peixotto,	3, avenue du Parc Monceau, Paris, France.
Randolph Mordecai,	2, avenue Hoche, Paris, France. : to hold office until the annual meeting of 1920.

Eighth. — The names and post-office addresses of the subcribers to the certificate are as follows ;

H. O. Beatty, 5, rue François Ier, Paris, France.
Henry Cachard, 39, boulevard Haussmann, Paris, France.
William Greenough, 128, E. 56th Street, New York, U.S.A.
H. Herman Harjes, 37, boulevard Richard Wallace, Paris, France.
Charles R. Scott, 5, rue François Ier, Paris, France.

Ninth. — The times for holding the annual meeting shall be the second Tuesday in March in each year.

In Witness Whereof, We have made, signed, acknowledged and filed this amended certificate in duplicata.

Dated : the twentieth day of November in the year One thousand nine hundred and fifteen.

(Signatures.)

Republic of France :

City of Paris :

Be it remembered, That on the twentieth day of April, A.D. one thousand nine hundred and fifteen, at the City of Paris, France, aforesaid, before me, JOHN B. ROBINSON a Commissioner of Deeds for the State of New York residing in said City of Paris, Republic of France, personally came :

H. O. BEATTY, HENRY CACHARD, WILLIAM GREENOUGH, H. HERMAN HARJES and CHARLES R. SCOTT, to me known to be the individuals described in and who executed the within instrument, and severally acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

In Testimony Whereof. I have hereunto set my hand and affixed Official Seal the day and year last above written.

(Signature.)
Commissioner of Deeds
for the State of New York.

Supplies before the A.R.C.H. Warehouse.

APPENDIX III

Accounts
and
Balance Sheets

(APPENDIX III.)

First Balance Sheet: Nov. 26.1914 to Dec. 31.1915.

AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, PARIS (Comité Central des Secours Américains)

DR.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	CR.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			CASH AT BANKERS AND IN HAND		
Sundry Accounts..		2,572 80	At Bankers	446,938 55	
RESERVE ACCOUNTS			In Hand..	675 20	
Peugeot Motor Truck (per contra)	10,000 00				447,613 75
Muller Automobile (part cost contributed)	2,200 00		ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		
Auto Reserve Account:			Sundry Accounts..		8,475 05
Proceeds of the sale of gift Peerless Auto	12,000 00		PEUGEOT MOTOR TRUCK (at cost)	10,000 00	
		24,200 00	MULLER AUTOMOBILE (at cost) ..	4,800 00	
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS:			TWO WHITE MOTOR TRUCKS (gifts) not valued		
Balance of General Relief.. ..	208,986 72		ONE MERCEDES CAR (on loan) not valued..		
„ Special Relief	234,116 14				14,800 00
„ Maintenance Account..	8,258 51		FURNITURE AND TYPEWRITERS		
LESS:	451,361 37		Estimated value		970 00
Balance of Publicity Account ..	6,275 37				
		445,086 00			
	Fr.	471,858 80		Fr.	471,858 80

We have examined the above Balance Sheet, dated 31st December, 1915, together with the attached Income and Expenditure Account for the period from 26th November, 1914 to 31st December, 1915, with the Books and Vouchers of the Clearing House, and find the same to be in accordance therewith. The Cash Balances have been verified by us.

5, London Wall Buildings, London, E.C
5th April, 1916.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS & CO., *Hon. Auditors.*
Chartered Accountants.

M. P. PEIXOTTO, *Comptroller.*

CHARLES R. SCOTT, *Hon. Secretary.*

J. RIDGELEY CARTER, *Treasurer.*

Dr. **Income and Expenditure Account for the period from 26th Nov. 1914 to 31st Dec. 1915** Cr.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE			
1. General Relief:	Fr. c.	**1. General Relief:**	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Donations received for General Relief.. ..	360,625 97	General Relief given in France:			
		Relief in Cash and Food..	3,930 70		
		Underclothing, Pyjamas, Shirts, Vests, Socks, Slippers.	85,716 50		
		Sheets, Towels, &c...	10,596 75		
		Shower Baths	485 00		
		Hospital Supplies:			
		Artificial Limbs, X Ray Apparatus, &c.	11,187 10		
		Cash Contributions to Hospitals	4,000 00		
		Sundry Contributions:			
		Comité des Secours Civils	1,000 00		
		Ouvroir et Abri Maternel, Nanterre..	500 00		
		Comité de l'Aisne..	120 00		
		Journée du Poilu	1,000 00		
		Ligue des Patriotes Françaises	250 00		
		Assistance au Dépôt d'Eclopés	2,000 00		
				120,786 05	
		Part cost of Washing Machines for use of Belgian Soldiers..		2,775 00	
		General Relief given to Serbians:			
		Amount handed to Serbian Minister for distribution	5,000 00		
		Underclothing, Shirts, &c.	5,560 00		
		Surgical Instruments and Hospital Supplies..	1,011 25		
		Contribution to Urgent Fund for Serbian Wounded..	206 95		
				11,778 20	
Carried forward .. Fr.	360,625 97	*Carried forward*..	Fr.	135,339 25	

	Fr. c.
Brought forward	360,625 97

	Fr. c.
Brought forward	797,136 72
Carried forward .. Fr.	797,136 72

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	95,072 06		151,639 25
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN IN FRANCE (contd):			
Non-Combattants in North of France ..	3,453 40		
Soup, Milk, Flour, &c.	942 55		
Washing Machines, Dried Milk, Games, &c. (per Rev. E. W. Byssche's Fund)..	1,750 00		
Binder and Twine for Harvesters	1,235 00		
Relief at Wassincourt and Wassy	2,500 00		
Relief at Charmes-sur-Moselle..	1,000 00		
Cash Relief to Individuals..	520 00		
Relief for Eclopés & Tents for ditto.. ..	4,569 10		
Education of Blind Soldiers	515 00		
		111,557 11	
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO BELGIANS:			
Relief at Poperinghe..	2,101 15		
Belgians in North of France	2,500 00		
Milk, Hams, Tongues, Vegetables.. ..	1,159 85		
Part cost of Washing Machines for use of Belgian Soldiers..	9,109 20		
		14,870 20	
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO ITALY:			
For Florentine Department of the Red Cross of Italy..		750 00	
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO SERBIANS:			
Per Serbian Minister..	656 90		
Milk, &c.	1,300 00		
Ambulance Beds..	550 00		
		2,506 90	
Carried forward.. .. .. Fr.		129,684 21	151,639 25

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward..		797,136 72
3. Clearing Accounts:		
AMOUNTS RECEIVED FOR TRANSFER TO OTHER SOCIETIES, viz:		
Sundry Clearing Accounts	28,048 06	
American Students' Committee, New York ..	29,359 50	
American Ambulance Hospital Fund, New York	1,089,393 25	
American Red Cross ..	24,409 31	
Comité de Secours National, New York	130,256 25	
Taro' American Embassy	27 567 50	
Fr.	1,329,033 87	
4. Publicity:		
SPECIAL DONATIONS	3,088 00	
BANK INTEREST transferred to this Account.. ..	2,793 38	5,881 38
Carried forward	Fr.	803,018 10

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward..	129,684 21	151,639 25
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO MONTENEGRO:		
Per Montenegrin Consul General ..	600 00	
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO POLAND:		
Being amount of Committee of Mercy Fund, New York, for relief of Polish Refugees in Russia.. ..	66,322 40	
REFUGEES RELIEF FUND, SPECIAL FUND:		
For Motor Truck Service..	2,700 00	
PUBLICITY ACCOUNT:		
Donations received, per contra.. ..	3,088 00	
		202,394 61
3. Clearing Accounts.		
AMOUNTS PAID OVER TO OTHER SOCIETIES, viz:		
Sundry Amounts paid over as instructed	28,048 06	
Comité des Etudiants Américains de l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris ..	29,359 50	
American Ambulance Hospital Fund Paris..	1,089,393 25	
Société de Secours aux Blessés Militaires, Paris	24,409 31	
Comité de Secours National, Paris ..	130,256 25	
Hôpital de l'Alliance, Yvetot	27,567 50	
Fr.	1,329,033 87	
4. Publicity:		
Printing, Postages, Advertising, Cinematograph, &c...		12,156 75
Carried forward..	Fr.	366,190 61

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward		803,018 10
5. **Maintenance :**		
GENERAL DONATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE.	40,087 30	
DONATIONS FROM AMERICAN RED CROSS	50,495 81	
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES, NEW YORK	84,734 00	
CONTRIBUTION FROM REFUGEES RELIEF FUND, for Motor Truck Service ..	3,175 10	
		178,492 21
Fr.		981,510 31

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward..		366,190 61
5. **Maintenance :**		
MAINTENANCE EXPENSES, viz :		
Salaries and Wages	83,133 65	
Stationery	8,423 80	
Postages..	3,265 30	
Cables	8,033 65	
Insurance.	1,150 95	
Telephone	1,476 15	
Heating..	7,579 35	
Lighting..	1,199 60	
House Expenses, Water and Repairs	1,904 20	
Travelling and Investigation Expenses	1,410 80	
Sundry Small Charges..	754 05	
Auditor's Expenses	1,427 80	
Purchase and Hire of Furniture, Typewriters, &c.	8,656 40	
London Agency..	1,859 25	
Shipping and Transport	7,757 30	
Automobile and Motor Truck Expenses..	32,201 45	
		170,233 70
BALANCE IN HAND, 31st DECR. 1915, viz :		
Balance of General Relief Account ..	208,986 72	
Balance of Special Relief Account ..	234,116 14	
Balance of Maintenance Account ..	8,258 51	
	451,361 37	
LESS :		
Balance of Publicity Account	6,275 37	
		445,086 00
Fr.		981,510 31

Second Balance Sheet, Jan 1. 1916, to June 30. 1916

AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, PARIS (Comité Central des Secours Américains)

DR. CR.

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.		Fr. c.	Fr. c.
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		
Sundry Accounts		95,371 35	Sundry Accounts		36,430 25
RESERVE ACCOUNTS			SUNDRY MOTOR TRUCKS AND CARS :		
Muller Automobile (part cost contributed)	2,200 00		New Willys Motor Truck (cost)	9,780 00	
Proceeds of sale Peugeot Motor Truck.	1,700 00		New Pierce Arrow „ „	22,800 00	
do. gift Peerless Auto ..	12,000 00		Muller Automobile (cost).. ..	4,800 00	
Pierce Arrow Motor Truck (part cost contributed) ..	20,000 00		1 Mercedes Car (on loan).. ..		
Furniture and Typewriters ..	3,030 00		1 Willys Motor Truck (gift) not valued		
Bank Interest	5,834,19		Two White Motor Trucks (gifts) not valued		
		44,764 19			37,380 00
SERBIAN RELIEF FUNDS			FURNITURE AND TYPEWRITERS		
Held in Italy (as per contra) Lire	68,417 95		Estimated value..		4,000 00
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS :			CASH IN ITALY		
Balance of General Relief.. ..	96,951 16		For Serbian Relief (as per contra) .. .. Lire	68,417 95	
„ Special Relief.. ..	709,852 59		CASH AT BANKERS AND IN HAND		
	806,803 75		At Bankers..	802,166 03	
LESS BALANCE OF :			In Hand	2,157 76	
Maintenance Account 42,111 60					804,323 79
Publicity Account .. 22,693 65	64,805 25	741,998 50			
	Fr.	882,134 04		Fr.	882,134 04

We have examined the above Balance Sheet, dated 30th June, 1916, together with the attached Income and Expenditure Account for the six months ended 30th June, 1916, with the Books and Vouchers of the Clearing House, and find the same to be in accordance therewith. The Cash Balances have been verified by us.

5, London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.
30th August, 1916.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS & CO., *Hon. Auditors.*
Chartered Accountants.

M. P. PEIXOTTO, *Comptroller.* CHARLES R. SCOTT, *Hon. Secretary.* J. RIDGELEY CARTER, *Treasurer.*

DR. **Income and Expenditure Account for the period from 26th Nov., 1914 to 30th June, 1916** CR.

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
1. General Relief:	Fr. c.	Fr. c.		**1. General Relief:**	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c
DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR GENERAL RELIEF:				DISBURSEMENTS:			
Per Account to 31st Dec., 1915..	360,625 97			Per Account to 31st December, 1915		151,639 25	
Per Account 1st January to 30th June, 1916..	175,702 15			do. 1st January to 30th June, 1916, viz:			
		536,328 12		GENERAL RELIEF GIVEN IN FRANCE:			
				Relief in Food	1,935 35		
				Clothing, Underclothing, Pyjamas, Shirts, Vests, Socks, Slippers, &c.	121,999 75		
				Beds, Bedding, Towels, Dusters, Handkerchiefs, &c.	62,753 76		
				Household and Hospital Furniture and Utensils for Refugees	6,761 25		
				Shower Baths, Soap, &c.	560 00		
				Hospital Supplies, including:			
				Medicines, Instruments, Artificial Limbs	54,061 00		
				Objects for Exercise, Recreation and Education of Convalescents, Eclopés, &c.	1,183 35		
				SUNDRY CASH CONTRIBUTIONS:			
				Le Vêtement du Prisonnier de Guerre	1,250 00		
				Œuvre de Secours aux Prisonniers à Lausanne	500 00		
				Œuvre des Visites aux Réfugiés Belges et Français..	2,000 00		
Carried forward ..		Fr. 536,328 12		*Carried forward* .. .. Fr.	253,004 46	151,639 25	

	Fr. c.		Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	536,328 12	*Brought forward*	253,004 46	151,639 25	
		GENERAL RELIEF (continued)			
		GENERAL RELIEF GIVEN TO BELGIANS :			
		Medicines for Hospital Elizabeth at Poperinghe..	8,777 95		
		Convalescent Home for Belgians, Cannes.	3,750 00		
		Œuvre Belge du Prisonnier de Guerre	2,500 00		
		Destitute Belgian Children in Switzerland	1,000 00		
		Belgians in N. France	127 00		
				16,154 95	
		GENERAL RELIEF GIVEN TO REFUGEES :			
		Clothing for Refugee Children	15,418 00		
		Sheets for Refugees at Constantinople	648 00		
		Furniture..	660 30		
				16,726 30	
		DONATION IN AID OF CHILDREN OF RUSSIANS FIGHTING UNDER THE FRENCH FLAG..		1,750 00	
		THERMOMETERS SENT TO ROME for Hospitals		102 00	
					287,737 71
					439,376 96
Carried forward .. Fr.	536,328 12	*Carried forward* .. .. Fr.			439,376 96

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward		536,328 12
2. Special Relief:		
DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR ALLOCATION TO SPECIAL RELIEF:		
Per Account to 31st Dec. 1915	436,510 75	
Per Account 1st January to 30th June, 1916	1,214,662 36	
		1,651,173 11
Carried forward ..		Fr. 2,187,501 23

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward			439,376 96
2. Special Relief:			
DISTRIBUTIONS OUT OF SPECIAL DONATIONS:			
Per Account to 31st December, 1915		202,394 61	
do. 1st January to 30th June, 1916:			
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN IN FRANCE:			
Underclothing, Pyjamas, Shirts, Vests, Socks, &c.	45,379 50		
Beds, Bedding, Towels, Dusters, Handkerchiefs, &c.	48,476 99		
Hospital Supplies:			
Including Apparatus and Artificial Limbs	110,991 00		
Dental Equipments for Eclopés and Children	9,800 00		
Clothing, Shoes and payments to Ouvroirs for work	51,595 05		
Household, Hospital and Canteen Furniture and Utensils	3,263 40		
Food, Milk and Fuel	9,485 75		
Shower Baths, Disinfectors and Soap	8,011 65		
Tobacco and Cigarettes	4,781 20		
Objects of Recreation, Exercise and Education for Convalescents and Eclopés	9,510 30		
Carried forward .. .. Fr.	301,294 84	202,394 61	439,376 96

	Fr. c.		Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	2,187,501 23	*Brought forward*	301,294 84	202,394 61	439,376 96
		SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN IN FRANCE (*continued*):			
		Assistance to Blind Soldiers	18,415 30		
		Blankets and Underclothing distributed in Switzerland to invalided French Prisoners	18,328 00		
		Cash gifts to Verdun Wounded returning to their homes	50,000 00		
		Bibles for French Soldiers	5 90		
		Repatriated Civil Prisoners	5,000 00		
		Farmers' Implements, Carpenters' Tools, &c.	987 05		
		Seeds for Farmers in N. France	4,000 00		
		Victims of Zeppelin Raids	200 00		
		CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS SOCIETIES:			
		Ligue Patriotique des Françaises	250 00		
		Asile de Nuit	150 00		
		Comité des Réfugiés du Département de la Somme	300 00		
		Comité de Secours, etc. de l'Orient ..	1,500 00		
		Foyer du Soldat, Nièvre	200 00		
		Assist. d'aide aux Veuves des Militaires de la Guerre, for orphans	1,000 00		
		Association Nationale des Mutilés de la Guerre	12,500 00		
		Blessés au Travail	12,500 00		
		Orphelinat Salésien	100 00		
		Orphelinat pour les Fillettes, &c., Bry-sur-Marne	500 00		
		American Hostels for Refugees	12,000 00		
		La Renaissance des Foyers détruits par la Guerre	500 00		
Carried forward .. Fr.	2,187,501 23	*Carried forward* .. .. Fr.	439,731 09	202,394 61	439,376 96

	Fr. c.		Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	2,187,501 23	*Brought forward*	439,731 09	202,394 61	439,376 96
		SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN IN FRANCE (*continued*) :			
		Assistance aux Dépôts d'Eclopés.. ..	456 05		
		La Pouponnière..	998 50		
		Orphelinat à Bettancourt-la-Longue ..	500 00		
		Le Vêtement du Prisonnier de Guerre	6,250 00		
		Société du Souvenir des Marins de France	2,000 00		
		Œuvre du Combattant et du Prisonnier du Canton de Bar-le-Duc..	500 00		
		Permissionnaires du Nord	500 00		
		Vestiaire du Foyer Franco-Belge to Purchase Clothes..	2,000 00		
		Séminaire Saint-Sulpice, Secours de Guerre	1,000 00		
		Œuvre Municipale de Secours aux Prisonniers de Guerre, Lyon	2,500 00		
		Œuvre de la Chaussée du Maine, Union des Familles..	1,000 00		
		Œuvre des Jeunes Economes, to buy clothing and food for Children.. ..	400 00		
		Comité de l'Œuvre des Veuves et Orphelins de Draguignan	1,000 00		
		Mutualité Maternelle, &c., for Clothes, Mattresses, Sheeting, &c., for 450 Children	2,500 00		
		Ligue Fraternelle des Enfants de France	15,000 00		
		Association des Infirmières Visiteuses de France, which visits, distributes food and attends to sufferers from Tuberculosis cases at their houses.	500 00		
Carried forward .. Fr.	2,187,501 23	*Carried forward* .. .. Fr.	476,835 64	202,394 61	439,376 96

	Fr. c.		Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward .. Fr.	2,187,501 23	*Brought forward*	476,835 64	202,394 61	439,376 96
		SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN IN FRANCE (*continued*):			
		CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS SOCIETIES (continued):			
		Union des Colonies Etrangères en France, en faveur des Victimes de la Guerre	2,212 50		
		Protection du Réformé No. 2	10,000 00		
		Cash Contributions to Hospitals, &c. ..	11 85		
		Cash Relief to Individuals and Refugees	17,751 12		
		British Red Cross for British Soldiers	42 80	506,853 91	
		SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO BELGIANS:			
		Hospital Supplies	8,464 05		
		Beds and Bedding for Refugees and Children	3,792 40		
		Milk for Babies	1,741 25		
		CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS SOCIETIES:			
		Aide Civile Belge	12,123 00		
		Œuvre des Visites aux Réfugiés Belges et Français	784 65		
		Chambre de Commerce Belge à Paris, for aid to Belgians	500 00		
		Orphelinat Belge, Wisques	931 00		
		La Comtesse de Cossé, for her Refuge Flamand, Rueil	500 00		
		Commission for Relief in Belgium ..	2,003 90		
Carried forward .. Fr.	2,187,501 23	*Carried forward* .. .. Fr.	30,840 25	709,248 52	439,376 96

	Fr.	c.
Brought forward	2,187,501	23
Carried forward .. Fr.	2,187,501	23

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	30,840 25	709,248 52	439,376 96
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO BELGIANS (*continued*):			
La Duchesse de Vendôme, for Maison de Convalescence Belge, Cannes ..	2,500 00		
Contribution in aid of destitute Belgian Children in Switzerland	1,000 00		
		34,340 25	
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO ITALY:			
Per American Relief Clearing House, Rome		1,551 05	
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO SERBIANS:			
Individual Relief and Refugees	21,293 10		
Clothing and Shoes..	5,170 55		
Hospital Supplies, Towels and Handkerchiefs..	18,738 45		
Beds, Bedding and Furniture for Hospitals	20,563 30		
Food	5,106 55		
S. S. " Menhir " Relief Ship, Expenses and supplies..	88,103 90		
		158,975 85	
SPECIAL RELIEF GIVEN TO RUSSIA AND RUSSIAN POLAND:			
Per Comité Général de Secours pour les Victimes de la Guerre en Pologne..	2,899 40		
Distributed by W. S. Patten at Petrograd	4,424 25		
		7,323 65	
Carried forward.. .. .. Fr.		911,439 32	439,376 96

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward		2,187,501 23
3. Clearing Accounts :		
AMOUNTS RECEIVED FOR TRANSFER TO OTHER SOCIETIES, viz :		
Per Account to 31st December, 1915	1,329,033 87	
Per Account 1st January to 30th June, 1916..	1,225,243 20	
Fr.	2,554,277 07	
4. Publiicity :		
AMOUNT RECEIVED		
Per Account to 31st December, 1915	5,881 38	
Per Account 1st January to 30th June, 1916, viz :		
SPECIAL DONATIONS transferred.. .. 789 30		
BANK INTEREST (part) transferred.. .. 3,979 42	4,768 72	10,650 10
Carried forward	Fr.	2,198,151 33

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	911,439 32	439,376 96
SPECIAL RELIEF FOR ALBANIA :		
U. S. Consul General at Athens.	102 40	
SPECIAL RELIEF FOR MONTENEGRO :		
U. S. Consul General at Athens.	114 50	
MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT :		
Motor Truck Service (Refugees Relief Fund Contributions).	8,875 00	
PUBLICITY ACCOUNT :		
Donations received, per contra.	789 30	
PURCHASE OF PIERCE ARROW CHASSIS :		
Donation received, per contra.	20,000 00	941,320 52
3. Clearing Accounts :		
AMOUNTS PAID OVER TO OTHER SOCIETIES, viz :		
Per Account to 31st December, 1915	1,329,033 87	
Per Account 1st January to 30th June, 1916..	1,225,243 20	
Fr.	2,554,277 07	
4. Publicity :		
EXPENDITURE :		
Printing, Postages, Advertising, Cinematograph, &c.		
Per Account to 31st December, 1915	12,156 75	
Per Account 1st January to 30th June, 1916..	21,187 00	33,343 75
Carried forward	Fr.	1,414,041 23

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward..		2,198,151 33
5. **Maintenance** :		
GENERAL DONATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE :		
Per Account to 31st December, 1915	178,492 21	
Per Account 1st January to 30th June, 1916, viz:		
DONATIONS FROM :—		
AMERICAN RED CROSS. 29,450 00		
WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, NEW YORK , .. 60,054 65		
REFUGEES RELIEF FUND for Motor Truck Service .. 8,875 00		
	98,379 65	
		276,871 86
	Fr.	2,475,023 19

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward			1,414 041 23
5. **Maintenance Expenses** :			
Per Account to 31st December, 1915		170,233 70	
do. 1st January to 30th June, 1916, viz:			
Salaries and Wages	78,272 45		
Stationery	10,440 30		
Postages	3,307 15		
Cables and Telephone ..	4,804 38		
Insurance	1,334 85		
Heating and Lighting ..	6,882 50		
House Expenses and Repairs	1,028 70		
Travelling and Investigation Expenses..	1,761 00		
Sundry Small Charges ..	319 60		
Auditors' Travelling and Hotel Expenses	771 20		
Purchase and Hire of Furniture, Typewriter, &c.	2,324 45		
Shipping and Transport..	7,890 25		
Automobile and Motor Truck Expenses	29,612 93	148,749 76	318,983 46
BALANCE IN HAND, 30th June, 1916, viz :			
Balance of General Relief Account ..		96,951 16	
Balances of Special Relief Accounts ..		709,852 59	
		806,803 75	
LESS :			
Balance of Maintenance Account..	42,111 60		
Publicity Account	22,693 65	64,805 25	741,998 50
		Fr.	2,475,023 19

Third Balance Sheet: July 1. 1916 to December 31. 1916.

AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, PARIS (Comité Central des Secours Américains)

Dr.				Cr.		
Accounts Payable	Fr.	c.	Fr. c.	**Accounts Receivable**	Fr.	c.	Fr. c.
Sundry Accounts			31,509 45	Sundry Accounts			61,994 35
Reserve Accounts				**Sundry Motor Trucks and Cars**			
Muller Automobile (part cost contributed)	2,200	00		Willys Motor Truck (cost) ..	9,780	00	
Pierce Arrow Motor Truck (part cost contributed).. ..	20,000	00		Pierce Arrow „ „ ..	22,800	00	
Chevrolet Automobile (part cost contributed)	2,857	14		Muller Automobile (cost).. ..	4,800	00	
Proceeds of sale Peugeot Motor Truck..	1,700	00		New Chevrolet Automobile (cost)	3,670	90	
Proceeds of sale of gift Peerless Auto (less expenses)	10,192	25		1 Mercedes Car (on loan) ..			
Furniture and Typewriters ..	4,030	00		1 Willys Motor Truck (gift) not valued			
Bank Interest	18,154	54	59,133 93	2 White Motor Trucks (gifts) not valued			41,050 90
Income and Expenditure Account				**Cash at Bankers and in Hand**			
Balance of General Relief.. ..	62,411	66		At Bankers..	459,246	98	
„ Special Relief.. ..	533,189	02		In Hand	2,799	83	462,046 81
Less Balance of				**Furniture and Typewriters**			
Maintenance Account 88,633 40	595,600	68		Estimated value..			5,000 00
Publicity Account .. 27,518 60	116,152	00	479,448,68				
	Fr.		570,092 06		Fr.		570,092 06

We have examined the above Balance Sheet, dated 31st December, 1916, together with the attached Income and Expenditure Account for the six months ended 31st December, 1916, with the Books and Vouchers of the Clearing House, and find the same to be in accordance therewith. The Cash Balances have been verified by us.

5, London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.
April, 1917.

Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., *Hon. Auditors.*
Chartered Accountants.

M. P. Peixotto, *Comptroller.* Charles R. Scott, *Hon. Secretary.* J. Ridgeley Carter, *Treasurer.*

DR. **Income and Expenditure Account for the period from 26th Nov., 1914 to 31st Dec., 1916** CR

INCOME	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	EXPENDITURE	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
1. **General Relief**:			1. **General Relief and**			
DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR GENERAL RELIEF :—			2. **Special Relief**:			
Per Account to 30th June, 1916..	536,328 12		DISBURSEMENTS :—			
Per Account 1st July to 31st December, 1916.	108,553 35		Per Account to 30th June, 1916,		1,380,697 48	
		644,881 47	do. 1st July to 31st Dec., 1916, viz :			
2. **Special Relief**:			RELIEF GIVEN IN FRANCE :—			
DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR ALLOCATION TO SPECIAL RELIEF :—			Clothing, Underclothing, Pyjamas, Socks, Slippers, &c.	194,048 35		
Per Account to 30th June, 1916	1,651,173 11		Beds, Bedding, Towels, Dusters, Handkerchiefs, &c.	160,448 35		
Per Account 1st July to 31st Decemb. 1916	837,326 84		Household, Hospital and Canteen Furniture and Utensils..	58,449 40		
		2,488,499 95	Baths, Shower Baths, Soap, Disinfectants, &c...	1,253 60		
			Hospital Supplies, including Medicines, Instruments, Apparatus, &c.	114,321 00		
			Artificial Limbs and Crutches ..	48,617 00		
			Objects for Exercise, Recreation and Education of Convalescents; Eclopés, &c.	5,979 55		
			Boots and Shoes..	1,005 00		
			Food, Milk and Fuel..	14,679 35		
			Tobacco, Cigarettes, Pipes, &c. ..	8,034 55		
			Assistance to Blind Soldiers	19,389 35		
			Relief to Rapatriated Civil Prisoners	15,000 00		
Carried forward .. Fr.		3,133,381 42	*Carried forward* .. .. Fr.		641,225 50	1,380,697 48

	Fr. c.		Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	3,133,381 42	*Brought forward*	641,225 50		1,380,697 48
		RELIEF GIVEN IN FRANCE (*continued*):			
		Farming Implements, Carpenters' Tools, etc...	4,637 20		
		Rubber Beds, Cushions, Pillows, Sheeting	4,506 75		
		Stretchers. Bedrests, Rolling Tables and Chairs, Folding Tables and Chairs..	24,617 60		
		Aid for Refugees and Individuals ..	8,851 15		
		Women and Children and Orphans	8,274 77		
		Tuberculous Soldiers..	4,709 50		
		Material, Pins, Needles, &c. for Ouvroirs	843 90		
		Electric Lamps for Stretcher Bearers	1,450 00		
		Electric Torches and Briquets for Soldiers in the Trenches..	315 00		
		Clothing for Nurses to replace losses by fire caused by bombardment of Hôpital Civil at Reims ..	600 00		
		Auto Supply Truck for Cooperative Canteen at the Front (special donation)	6,000 00		
		Outfits for Postes de Secours	4,318 35		
		Games and Christmas Toys for War Orphans	844 60		
		Machines for making Clothing (for use of Blind Soldiers of Brittany)	1,365 00		
		To establish Jesse H. Metcalf Dépôt for Eclopés..	5,840 00	718,399 72	
Carried forward .. Fr.	3,133,381 42	*Carried forward*		Fr. 718,399 72	1,380,697 48

	Fr.	c.		Fr.	c.	Fr.	c.	Fr.	c.
Brought forward	3,133,381	42	*Brought forward*			718,399	72	1,380,697	48
			CASH DONATIONS TO SOCIETIES IN FRANCE :—						
			Association des Villégiatures du Travail Féminine	1,000	00				
			Ecole Agricole La Pilatière..	1,600	00				
			Permissionnaires du Nord..	500	00				
			American Face and Jaw Hospital, Paris	500	00				
			Ambulance de la Gare, Redon	250	00				
			Cercle du Soldat, Voiron	250	00				
			Orphelinat St. Joseph, Gerardmer ..	1,000	00				
			Œuvre des Parrains de Reuilly	2,500	00				
			Œuvre du Soldat dans la Tranchée ..	1,000	00				
			Centre de Re-education Professionnelle des Blessés	1,000	00				
			Office de Renseignements pour les Familles Dispersées..	2,000	00				
			Orphelinat and Maison de Retraite des Médaillés Militaires..	500	00				
			Comité des Etudiants Américains de l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts	5,000	00				
			Œuvre des Familles Dispersées.. ..	5,000	00				
			Municipal Council, Paris, for Relief Work..	500	00				
			Appui aux Artistes	1,000	00				
			Œuvre Libératrice.	500	00				
			Franco-American Corrective Surgical Appliance Committee..	5,000	00				
			"Le Nid" Berceau et Foyer des Enfants Victimes de la Guerre, Fontenelle..	2,000	00				
			"Bien Etre" du Blessé	600	00				
Carried forward .. Fr.	3,133,381	42	*Carried forward* .. .. Fr.	31,700	00	718,399	72	1,380,697	48

	Fr.	c.		Fr.	c.	Fr.	c.	r.	c. F
Brought forward	3,133,381	42	*Brought forward*	31,700	00	718,399	72	1,380,697	48
			CASH DONATIONS TO SOCIETIES IN FRANCE (continued) :—						
			Le Bon Gîte, Paris	5,000	00				
			Comité d'Attibution for Orphans ..	17,665	00				
			Crecei d'Attribution (Contributions received in response to Special Appeal for Orphans)..	40,284	20				
			Vestiaire du Foyer Franco-Belge ..	2,000	00				
			Comité Franco-Américain pour la Protection des Enfants de la Frontière	3,600	00				
			Comité Central d'Assistance aux Militaires Tuberculeux	20,000	00				
			Fraternité Américaine..	2,000	00				
			Mutualité Maternelle, Versailles and St. Germain Pré.	290	00				
			Les Tuberculeux de la Guerre.. ..	17,490	00				
			Cantine des Dames Anglaises, Le Bourget	1,000	00				
			Œuvre de la Soupe Populaire, VI Arrt., Paris	250	00				
			Quartier Latin Students Atelier.. ..	1,457	50				
			Comité Franco-Américain pour les Aveugles de la Guerre	1,457	50				
			Association Valentin Haüy pour le Bien des Aveugles	7,500	00				
			Association des Œuvres de Bienfaisance, Paris	500	00				
			Maison Ecole d'Infirmières Privées ..	500	00				
			Maison de Famille, Notre Dame des Anges, Nantes	500	00				
			Œuvre de l'Art et de la Femme.. ..	505	00				
Carried forward .. Fr.	3,133,381	42	*Carried forward* .. .. Fr.	153,699	20	718,399	72	1,380,697	48

	Fr. c.
Brought forward	3,133,381 42
Carried forward .. Fr.	3,133,381 42

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	153,699 20	718,399 72	1,380,697 48
CASH DONATIONS TO SOCIETIES IN FRANCE (continued) :—			
Municipality of Paris for following Relief Works :—			
Tricot du Soldat	2,500 00		
Prisonnier de Guerre.	2,500 00		
Section des Mutilés..	10,000 00		
Section des Réfugiés..	2,500 00		
Trains des Blessés	2,500 00		
		173,699 20	
RELIEF GIVEN TO BELGIANS :—			
Food, Milk and Fuel	666 15		
Hospital Supplies, Soap, &c.	1,241 00		
Artificial Limbs	20,000 00		
CASH DONATIONS TO BELGIAN SOCIETIES :—			
Commission for Relief in Belgium ..	1,579 50		
Orphelinat Belge, Wisques..	1,176 20		
Ambulance Body, gift to the Duchesse de Vendôme, for Belgian Army ..	1,000 00		
		25,662 85	
Carried forward .. .. Fr.		917,761 77	1,380,697 48

	Fr.	c.
Brought forward .. Fr.	3,133,381	42
Carried forward .. Fr.	3,133,381	42

	Fr.	c.	Fr.	c.	Fr.	c.
Brought forward			917,761	77	1,380,697	48
RELIEF GIVEN TO ITALY :—						
Per American Relief Clearing House, Rome :						
Hospitals	1,756	00				
Italian Relief..	1,369	55	3,125	55		
RELIEF GIVEN TO BRITISH :—						
Objects for Exercise for Crews of Tank Cars..	186	50				
Sweaters for Prisoners of War	1,250	00				
Warm Underclothing sent to 260 Sailors of British Trawler Fleet on French Coast	2,166	70				
Scottish Soldiers and Sailors' Orphans	29	50				
English Soldiers in Hospital.	47	25				
British Colony Aid Fund	227	85				
British Charitable Fund	375	40	4,283	20		
RELIEF GIVEN TO SERBIANS :—						
Hospital Supplies..	35,705	80				
Food and Milk	4,762	05				
Clothing, Underclothing, Shoes, Sandals, &c.	12,740	60				
Relief for Refugees in France, Corsica and Salonica..	9,380	00				
Chassis for 40 Motor Ambulances for Serbian Army, Salonica	130 211	65				
Carried forward .. .. Fr.	192,800	10	925,170	52	1,380,697	48

	Fr. c.		Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward	3,133,381 42	*Brought forward*	192,800 10	925,170 52	1,380,697 48
		RELIEF GIVEN TO SERBIANS (continued) :—			
		Portable Water Barrels..	900 00		
		Mission de Co-ordination de Secours aux Armées d'Orient for Supplies for Serbians at Monastir..	25,000 00		
			218,700 10		
		LESS :—			
		Refund S.S" " Menhir "	21,032 45		
				197,667 65	
		RELIEF GIVEN TO RUSSIANS :—			
		Through W. S. Patten, Petrograd ..	1,037 75		
		Russian Prisoners..	460 20		
				1,497 95	
		RELIEF GIVEN TO POLES :—			
		Through W. S. Patten, Petrograd ..	2,960 00		
		Société Pro Polonia	3,584 00		
		Comité de la Grande Duchesse Tatania for Polish Refugees.. ..	20,000 00		
				26,544 00	
		REFUGEES RELIEF FUND :—			
		Special Fund for Motor Truck Service		6,203 14	
					1,157,083 26
Carried forward .. Fr.	3,133,381 42	*Carried forward*			Fr. 2,537,780 74

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward..		3,133,381 42
3. Clearing Accounts:		
AMOUNTS RECEIVED FOR TRANSFER TO OTHER SOCIETIES, viz:		
Per Account to 30th June, 1916..	2,554,119 32	
Per Account 1st July to 31st December, 1916 ..	1,221,267 69	
Fr.	3,775,387 01	
4. Publicity:		
AMOUNT RECEIVED		
Per Account to 30th June, 1916..	10,650 10	
Per Account 1st July to 31st December 1916		10,650 10
Carried forward..		Fr. 3,144,031 52

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward..		2,537,780 74
3. Clearing Accounts:		
AMOUNTS PAID OVER TO OTHER SOCIETIES, viz:		
Per Account to 30th June, 1916..	2,554,119 32	
Per Account 1st July to 31st December, 1916 ..	1,221,267 69	
Fr.	3,775,387 01	
4. Publicity:		
EXPENDITURE:		
Printing, Postages, Advertising,		
Per Account to 30th June, 1916..	33,343 75	
Per Account 1st July to 31st December, 1916 ..	4,824 95	
		38,168 70
Carried forward..		Fr. 2,575,949 44

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward..		3,144,031 52
5. **Maintenance**:		
GENERAL DONATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE:		
Per Account to 30th June, 1916..	276,871 86	
Per Account 1st July to 31st Dec., 1916, viz:		
DONATIONS FROM:—		
AMERICAN RED CROSS. 40,949 00		
WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE, NEW YORK .. 57,429 00		
WAR RELIEF BAZAAR FUND .. 32,648 00		
AMERICAN FUND for FRENCH WOUNDED for Motor Truck Service .. 2,346 00		
NATIONAL ALLIED RELIEF COMMITTEE 29,237 50		
PAUL D. CRAVATH .. 1,000 00	163,609 50	440,481 36
Compiled by C. C. SISCO.	Fr.	3,584,512 88

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
Brought forward			2,575,949 44
5. **Maintenance Expenses**:			
Per Account to 30th June, 1916		318,983 46	
do. 1st July to 31st Dec., 1916, viz:			
Salaries and Wages.. ..	117,693 85		
Stationery	11,079 50		
Postages	3,203 25		
Cables and Telephone ..	5,257 80		
Insurance	1,017 70		
Heating and Lighting ..	8,302 25		
House Expenses and Repairs	1,361 20		
Traveling and Investigation Expenses..	822 75		
Sundry Small Charges ..	670 15		
Auditors' Traveling and Hotel Expenses	370 00		
Purchase and Hire of Furniture, Typewriters, &c.	2,924 55		
Shipping and Transport	10,289 40		
Automobile and Motor Truck Expenses	47,138 90	210,131 30	529,114 76
BALANCE IN HAND, 31st Dec., 1916, viz:			
Balance of General Relief Account ..		62,411 66	
Balances of Special Relief Accounts ..		533,189 02	
		595,600 68	
LESS:			
Balance of Maintenance Account ..	88,633 40		
Publicity Account.. ..	27,518 60	116,152 00	479,448 68
		Fr.	3,584,512 88

FINAL BALANCE SHEET

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

From November 26, 1914 to December 16, 1918

INCOME	Fcs.	Fcs.
Donations for General Relief	790,260.82	
„ „ Special Relief	5,401,268.69	
		6,191,529.51

EXPENDITURE		
Relief given to Armenians	3,001.21	
„ „ Belgians	175,506.45	
„ „ British	5,149.30	
„ „ Italians	5,528.60	
„ „ Montenegrins	13,982.10	
„ „ Poles	138,226.84	
„ „ Roumanians, by Gift to Queen of Roumania	19,005.95	
„ „ Russians	9,369.25	
„ „ Serbians	548,168.36	
„ „ Syrians	1,520.20	
„ „ French, as below :—		
Aid to Blind Soldiers	51,208.45	
„ Individuals	37,262.13	
„ Refugees	135,224.06	
„ Repatriated Civil Prisoners	42,990.00	
„ Tubercular Soldiers	4,709.50	
Artificial Limbs	213,455.15	
Beds, Bedding, Towels, etc.	556,094.50	
Boots and Shoes	108,276.70	
Clothing and Underclothing	1,446,916.15	
Farming and other Tools and Machines	69,493.20	
Fondation of Dépôt d'Eclopés (James H. McLean)	10,409.10	
Fowls, Rabbits and Seeds for Devastated Northern France	76,375.30	
Food, Milk and Fuel	108,849.10	
Furniture and Utensils for Hospitals, Canteens and Households	128,009.36	
Hospital Supplies	574,479.85	
Objects of Exercise, Recreation and Education of Convalescents and Eclopés	33,287.00	
Postes de Secours Outfits and Supplies	6,891.15	
Rubber Beds, Pillows and Cushions	14,480.85	
Shower Baths, Soap and Disinfectants	42,432.10	
Stretchers, Rolling Furniture, etc.	62,706.48	
Tobacco, Cigarettes and Pipes	24,006.55	
Motor Ambulances, Trucks and Cycles	55,825.70	
Cash Donations to Wounded Soldiers returning Home	50,000.00	
Cash Donations to Relief Societies	1,418,678.87	
	5,272,071.25	
		6,191,529.51

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

From November 26, 1914 to December 16, 1918

	Fcs.	Frcs.
Special Contributions received for Maintenance		810,244.82
Expended as below :—		
Automobile and Motor Truck Expenses	153,870.87	
Auditor's Hotel and Traveling Expenses	3,952.80	
Bordeaux Agency	3,754.15	
Cables, Telegrams and Telephone	27,591.58	
Fire Insurance	3,249.70	
Furniture and Typewriters (Purchase and Hire of)	22,467.10	
Heating and Lighting	32,605.65	
House Expenses, Repairs and Water Rates	25,203.95	
Insurance of Staff against Accidents	2,336.90	
Investigation and Traveling Expenses	15,100.55	
London Agency	1,859.25	
Postages	13,594.10	
Salaries and Wages	418,624.55	
Shipping and Freight	35,109.95	
Stationery	47,277.05	
Sundry Small Expenses	3,646.67	
		810,244.82

AUTOMOBILE AND CAMION ACCOUNT

Special Contributions for Purchase and Upkeep of Motor Cars and Trucks (Service of A. R. C. H.)		31,578.14
Expended as below :—		
Purchase of Cars and Trucks	13,800.00	
Motor Service (Refugees Relief Fund)	17,778.14	
		31,578.14

PUBLICITY ACCOUNT

Special Contributions received for Publicity		43,472.25
Expended as below :—		
Freight on Posters, etc.	124.35	
Nawspaper Cuttings and Books of Reference	383.35	
Printing and Typing	9,584.50	
Postages	18,379.55	
Stationery	11,836.50	
Tags and Posters	3,164.00	
		43 472.25

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Amounts cleared to other Relief Societies and Individuals	5,127.163,91
Amounts expended for Relief Purposes	6,191,529.51
Maintenance Expenses	810,244.82
Motor Service (Special)	31,578.14
Publicity Expenses	43,472.25
	12,203,988.63

The above statement has been carefully prepared from Audits covering the entire period of American Relief Clearing House activities, as certified to by the Hon. Auditors, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., Chartered Accountants.

Mrs. Claire Cornelia Sisco,
Hon. Comptroller.

January 15, 1919.

SUMMARY

	Frs.
Estimated Value of Cases of Goods and Material received from the United States (194,431)	74,486,163.60
Cash Transactions	12,203,988.63
	86,690,152.23

On July 1, 1917, the American Relief Clearing House turned over to the American Red Cross its entire working organization, including trained personnel, equipment, warehouses and all stocks of supplies (estimated value Fcs. 2,300,000). Credit was given on the books of the American Red Cross as for a Cash Contribution of One Million Francs,

Cash on hand for Relief Purposes on July 1, 1917, Fcs. 1,091,370.80, together with subsequent Donations, Fcs. 239,903.27, was disbursed strictly in accordance with stipulations of Donors under direction of members of the American Relief Clearing House.

Total cost of operating the American Relief Clearing House, Paris, was 1.02 per cent of all transactions in Cash and Material.

H. O. BEATTY,
Director General.

APPENDIX IV

The War Relief Clearing House

FOR

FRANCE AND HER ALLIES

March 1st, 1915—December 23rd, 1918

Warehouse closed to receipt of shipments Sept 1st 1917

FINAL STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS OF

The War Relief Clearing House for France and Her Allies From March Ist. 1915 to December 21st. 1918.

FOR RELIEF PURPOSES	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS.
CASH	$1,691,247.41	
Contributions to Armenia		4,641.84
,, ,, American Red Cross		137.82
,, ,, Belgium		10,352.88
,, ,, Great Britain		4,736.73
,, ,, France		1,483,563.98
,, ,, Italy		18,469.75
,, ,, Montenegro		2,686.17
,, ,, Poland		29,043.37
,, ,, Roumania		12,953.55
,, ,, Russia		26,717.14
,, ,, Serbia		97,711.17
Miscellaneous Contributions to Albania, Galicia, Holland, Korea and Syria		233.01
Total	$1,691,247.41	$1,691,247.41
Freight Charges, Insurance, etc., paid by Clearing House on Special Shipments and refunded by contributors	$ 90,904.15	$ 90,904.15
FOR ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES.		
Contribution in Cash	163,164.36	
Sale Boxes, Bags, etc.	149.46	
Interest on Bank Balance	2,392.51	
EXPENSES OF N. Y. CLEARING HOUSE		119,813.00
Contributions to Expenses of Paris Clearing House		36,377.43
Unexpended Balance contributed to the American Red Cross in accordance with resolution of the Executive Committee December 10th, 1918.		9,515.90
	$ 165,706.33	$ 165,706.33
Total	$1,947,857.89	$1,947,857.89

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE.

We have audited the accounts of The War Relief Clearing House from March 1, 1915 to December 21, 1918, and certify that the above statement is correctly prepared from the books.

All cash received, as shown by the records, has been accounted for and proper vouchers have been produced for all disbursements.

MARWICK, MITCHELL, PEAT & CO.

December 21st, 1918. Auditors.

(See Summary on next page.)

SUMMARY

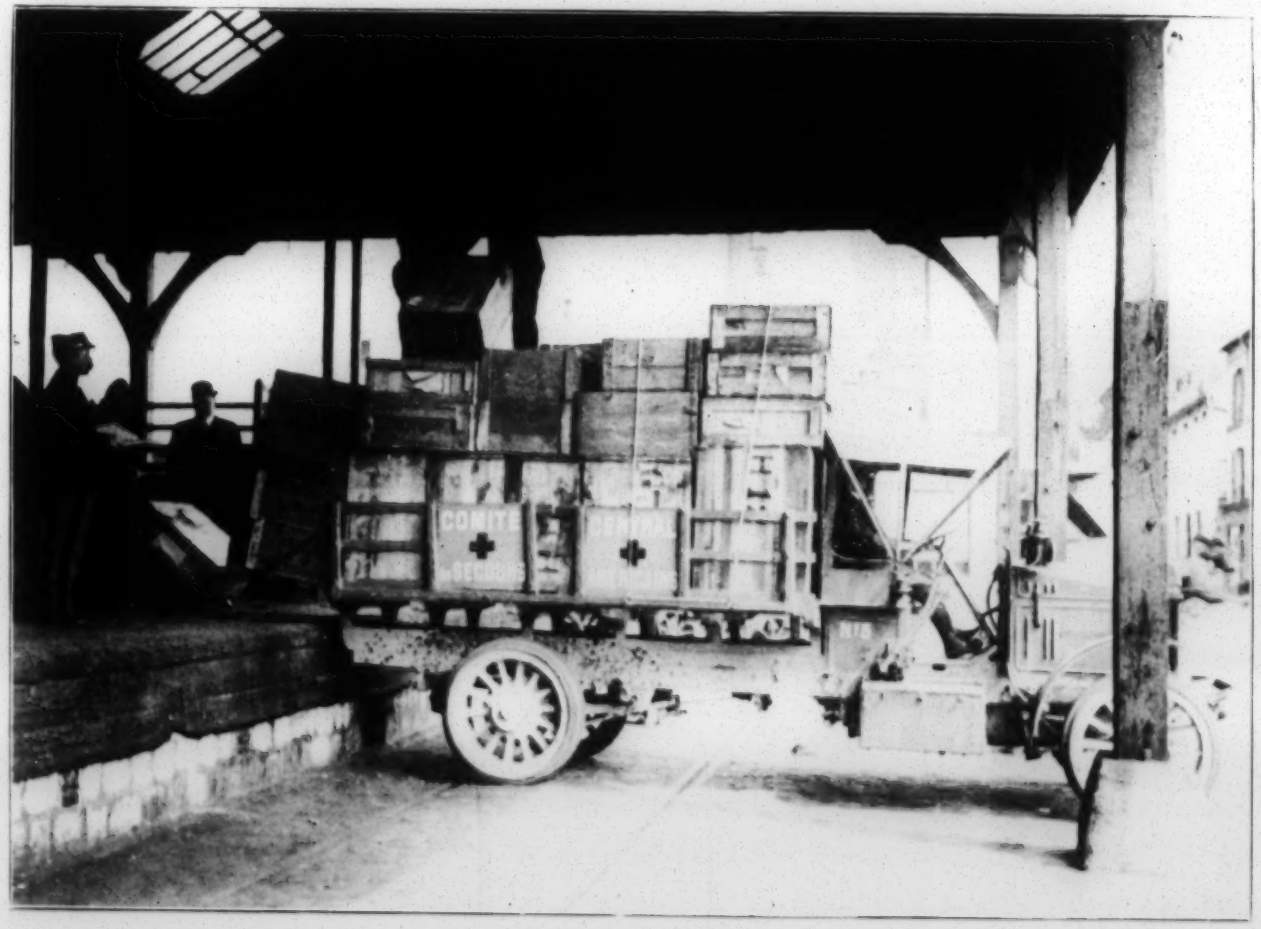
Estimated value of contributed material	$8,507,554.17
Value of material purchased by Clearing House	465,165.83
Total value of material shipped (112.159 cases).	$8,972,720.00

Cash Transactions	$ 1,947,857.89
Estimated value of contributed material .	8,507,554.17
Total	$10,455,412.06

The total cost of operating the New York Clearing House was 1.15 per cent of all transactions in cash and material.

All shipping was turned over to the American Red Cross, Sept 1st, 1917.

CLYDE A. PRATT,
Executive Secretary.



LOADING A.R.C.H. STORES AT THE BATIGNOLLES STATION.

APPENDIX V

Specimen of A.R.C.H. Bulletin

American Relief Clearing House

(Comité Central des Secours Américains)

Organized 26 November, 1914

5, RUE FRANÇOIS Ier - PARIS

APRIL BULLETIN, 1917

For two and a half years Noyon was distinguished as the French city nearest to Paris in possession of the invading enemy.

At the earliest possible hour after the liberation of the city and the surrounding neighborhood, the American Relief Clearing House sent to Noyon two of its staff accompanying its own auto trucks loaded with blankets, clothing, food, milk and medicine. Twelve thousand old men, old women and young children (the young and able of both sexes having been carried off), were found left behind amidst the desolation, with no food, with not even a cooking utensil if food were obtainable. Nor were left mattresses to lie on, nor blankets for warmth.

With thoroughness the Prussians had carried out the orders of the high command as per the quotation below from the "Frankfurter Zeitung":

"Our chief command having determined to ate a sort of glacis in view of future combats, has made a large zone of devastation which may be called a war zone in all its pitilessness.

"The magnificent trunks of the trees which bordered the French roads lie on the ground to be placed as obstacles at the last moment.

"The enemy will not find a roll of wire, not a wisp of straw or hay, not a railway-point, not a spade or fork, not a well. The fields on the side of the road have been ploughed up so that if the artillery, finding the roads destroyed, should hope to pass on either side of the road, it will be obliged to undertake difficult repairs.

"Undoubtedly the persons able to work, between the age of fifteen and sixty have been evacuated, but the women, children and aged have been left in the important localities.

"Bapaume and Péronne have been entirely destroyed. Already not much of them was left. The object of the destruction was to prevent the enemy from finding the slightest shelter there."

Can you picture a city of 12,000 inhabitants left without a plate or a knife or a fork or a kettle or a saucepan? Such were the conditions found at Noyon and like conditions will be discovered many times as the retreat continues.

Will not the United States provide us with plentiful supplies of money that we may give twice by giving quickly and helpfully to these long suffering people whose only possession is their new freedom?

Before this war, the people of the United States had been attracted to France by its pleasures, its fashions, and its art, long having forgotten wherein lay the true glory of France. Today, Americans are beginning to appreciate that the men who defended Verdun could never have been the Frenchmen of their imagination. When the people of the United States learn more intimately that there is no man in the world who lives a more beautiful family life, no man who has a greater love for his country than the Frenchman, they will begin to look with new eyes upon the many other splendid virtues to be found in the people of France Each people has much of good to learn from the other.

The following table is interesting as showing the increase during the year 1916 over the year 1915 in the number of cases forwarded by the American Relief

Clearing House, first to hospitals and ambulances and second to relief organizations :

	In 1915	In 1916
To Hospitals and Ambulances -	4,787	11,446
To Relief Organizations - - -	15,131	51,470
	19,918	62,916

Also 40,000 Kits to the soldiers each year = 80,000

Not only has there been an important increase in the number of cases sent to France through the American Relief Clearing House during last year but there has also been a notable increase in sums of money both for transmission to others and for distribution according to our best judgment. Below is a table of the more important items showing the comparison between the years 1915 and 1916 :

	1915	1916
	Francs	
Clearing Accounts	1,329,033.87	2,446,353.14
General and Special Relief	354,033.86	2,183,746.88
Classified Relief :—		
Clothing, Underclothing, Pyjamas, Socks, Slippers, etc.	116,373.25	437,757.05
Food, Milk and Fuel	6,623.25	36,350.45
Beds, Bedding and Furniture (including Hospital Furniture)	33,559.75	365,830.75
Hospital Supplies (Medicines, Instruments, etc.)	53,318.61	234,971.05
Artificial Limbs	3,132.45	124,786.55
Relief for Blind	515.00	48,127.15
Relief for Eclopes and Objects of Recreation, Exercise, etc	9,477.45	40,040.15
Mutilated and Disabled discharged from the Army	4,637.20	161,549.20
Relief for Children	500.00	115,975.07
Serbian and Montenegrin Relief	17,385.10	356,860.30

Our publicity bureau is a modest one but it has aided in carrying accounts of the work of the American Relief Clearing House, which is also the official representative in France of the American Red Cross, to at least ten million readers. For over two years it has stimulated to an appreciable extent donations of funds and of gifts in kind not only to the Clearing House, but also to the other American relief organizations in France. In the United States it has awakened interest in France and in France it has spread the story of American sympathy and moral support.

You can send your check directly to us or to Clyde A. Pratt, Executive Secretary, War Relief Clearing House, 40, Wall Street, New York City. Supplies should be sent to the War Relief's Warehouse at 133, Charlton Street, New York City.

Board of Directors

American Relief Clearing House, Paris.

H. Herman Harjes	Charles R. Scott
Whitney Warren	James R. Barbour
Hon. J. Ridgeley Carter	Walter Abbott
Charles Carroll	M P. Peixotto
H. O. Beatty	Ralph Preston
George Munroe	James H. Hyde
Rev. Dr. S. N. Watson	Hugh R. Griffin
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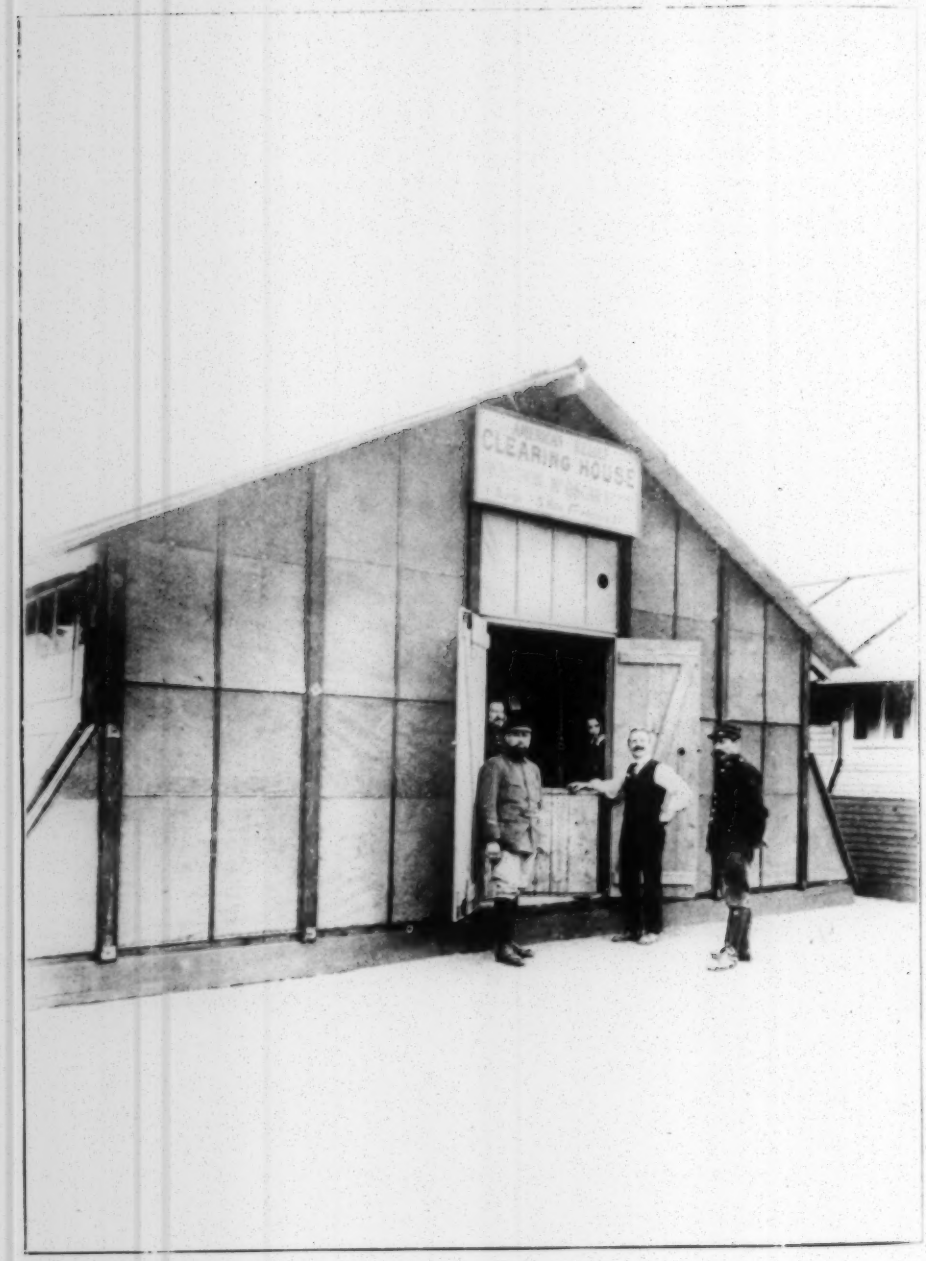

One of the demountable sheds placed at the service of the A.R.C.H. by the French War Ministry.

APPENDIX VI

Specimen Bulletin of the War Relief Clearing House

Bulletin No. 169 May 23rd, 1917

THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE
For France and Her Allies

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
40 WALL STREET, NEW YORK CITY
TELEPHONE: 6006 JOHN

FOR FRANCE

NOTICE.

It should be understood that the recent loan of the United States Government amounting to $75,000,000 for relief work in Belgium and Northern France can only be applied in those portions of Belgium and France under German domination and served by the Commission for Relief in Belgium. IT CANNOT BE APPLIED IN TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENTS SERVED BY THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE AND AS THE NEED IS GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE WE MUST CONTINUE OUR WORK, DEPENDING ENTIRELY ON THE GENEROSITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

A cable from the American Relief Clearing House of Paris this morning contained the good news that the S S "Canadian" has arrived safely at Bordeaux with 11,844 cases of supplies shipped by the War Relief Clearing House

But the cable also reads

"We need monthly 2,000 tons following supplies

MACARONI AND ITALIAN PASTES

DRY VEGETABLES		CANNED STRING BEANS	
BEANS	FLAGEOLETS	DRIED APPLES	TAPIOCA
SPLIT PEAS	PEAS	PEACHES	CRACKERS
RICE	FLOUR	PRUNES	SUGAR

Your generosity during the past two years has made it possible for the CLEARING HOUSE to lighten in a small way the burden being carried by our ally, FRANCE, who has borne the brunt of the war.

Now FRANCE needs our help more than ever before and the CLEARING HOUSE in placing this call before you wishes to EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF QUICK RESPONSE.

LET US DIVIDE WITH FRANCE!

Contributions of supplies if shipped PREPAID to the Warehouse of The War Relief Clearing House, 133 Charlton Street, New York City, will be forwarded to destination in France without expense to contributors

WE WILL ACT AS YOUR PURCHASING AGENT IF YOU SO DESIRE, AND THEREBY GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF OUR EXCEPTIONAL PRICES.

Will you kindly ask your newspaper to publish this and give it such other publicity as is possible

WE SOLICIT INQUIRIES IN REGARD TO RELIEF MATTERS

Address all communications to

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE ORDER OF
THOMAS W. LAMONT
TREASURER,
AND MAIL CARE OF
WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE
40 WALL STREET, NEW YORK

Clyde A. Pratt
Executive Secretary

The War Relief Clearing House

For France and Her Allies

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
40 WALL STREET,
NEW YORK CITY

WAREHOUSES
133 CHARLTON STREET
NEW YORK CITY

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Former Secretary of State.
Hon. MYRON T. HERRICK, Former Ambassador to France.
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CORRESPONDING BODY IN FRANCE

AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

OFFICES:
5, RUE FRANCOIS IER,
PARIS.

WAREHOUSES:
25, RUE PIERRE CHARRON
PARIS.

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF
MONSIEUR RAYMOND POINCARÉ, President of the French Republic
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SERBIA
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF MONTENEGRO

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ACCOUNTANTS
Messrs. MARWICK, MITCHELL, PEAT & CO

The American Relief Clearing House, Paris, France.

There has been formed in France under the sanction of the French Government The American Relief Clearing House, with the Hon. Robert Bacon, as Honorary President, and Mr. H. H. Harjes, of Morgan, Harjes & Co., as President, with the object, among others, of receiving and properly distributing contributions for the relief of sufferers of France and her Allies.

Proper record will be made of its work and final account thereof will be rendered

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War Relief Clearing House for France and Her Allies, New York City.

For the purpose of co-operating with the movement in France a complementary association has been formed here under the name of War Relief Clearing House for France and Her Allies. Its objects are

I.—To gather through the American Relief Clearing House of Paris or otherwise, and to disseminate in this country accurate information as to where relief is most urgently needed and the nature of the supplies which are required.

II.—To co-operate with relief organizations in different parts of the country engaged in like service, and, by placing at their disposal the facilities of the Clearing House, to aid in the distribution of such funds or supplies as may be contributed.

III.—To establish a strict accounting system for all money and supplies received and disbursed or distributed.

IV.—To prevent duplication in distribution of relief.

V.—As incidental to the foregoing the Clearing House shall, among other things

(a) Supply information as to means and cost of transportation, aid in securing the best possible arrangements and terms therefor, give proper shipping directions, and, if desired, take charge of shipments;

(b) Upon request, act as purchasing agents for affiliated organizations in order to secure the most favorable conditions of price, quality and delivery;

(c) Assist affiliated organizations in the verification and certification of the accounts of their receipts and disbursements when desired.

In order that *free service* shall be rendered by the Clearing House to the relief organizations which shall be or become affiliated with it, the Clearing House will itself defray the clerical and other expenses incident to the carrying out of its purposes. No contributions will be solicited on account of such expenses from any of the affiliated organizations.

WHAT THE CLEARING HOUSE HAS DONE.

The War Relief Clearing House for France and Her Allies, working in close affiliation with the American Relief Clearing House, which is recognized by the French Government as an official representative in France of the distribution of American charity, has forwarded more than 88,000 cases of relief supplies, valued in excess of $6,000,000.00 and has received more than $1,632,000.00 in cash. It is in touch with more than 5,000 relief organizations, societies, schools, churches, clubs and groups of individuals, located in various parts of the United States, Canada, Hawaiian Islands, Cuba, Bermuda, etc., in no sense supplanting these organizations, but lending them its exceptional facilities, FREE OF CHARGE, in order that the charitable work going on in this country may not suffer from duplication, inefficiency or wasted effort.

WHAT THE CLEARING HOUSE DOES.

1. It gives its services and information FREE to all contributors.
2. It co-operates with the American Relief Clearing House of France and its Committees, representing the various Allied countries. Such Committees operate under the patronage of the Heads of the respective Governments.
3. It is kept reliably informed as to what form of relief is most needed and where, and disseminates such information to affiliated organizations in America.
4. It acts as a purchasing and forwarding agent for organizations and individuals wishing to contribute funds or supplies, thereby giving contributors the benefit of its exceptional prices.
5. It obtains free shipment, with few exceptions, for contributions from New York to the designated destination in Europe.
6. It enters contributions of supplies into ports of the Allied countries, free of Customs duties.
7. It is given free transportation for supplies over the French and Italian railways.
8. It delivers supplies where they are most needed by the quickest and surest route.
9. It does away with the former confusion, delay and waste.
10. It makes NO CHARGE for its services, and all contributions for relief are delivered intact, without deduction for operating expenses.
11. It SOLICITS INQUIRIES.

TOBACCO.

Contributions of tobacco for France can be forwarded only to the Minister of War, to whose judgment the distribution of such contributions is left. It is permissible for contributors to express a desire that their contributions be distributed in certain regions or to certain units, but the military authorities reserve the right to judge of a possibility of satisfying such requests.

PROHIBITED ARTICLES

The laws of France prohibit the importation of MATCHES, PLAYING CARDS and ALCOHOL. These articles must not be placed in packages with other things, as their presence may subject the entire package to seizure.

Contributors desiring to forward medicines and drugs, such as chloroform, ether, etc., are requested to communicate with the War Relief Clearing House in all cases in advance of shipment, and if possible arrangements will be made for the handling of the contributions. THESE MATERIALS SHOULD ALSO BE PACKED IN SEPARATE PACKAGES.

PACKING

Inasmuch as FREE OCEAN TRANSPORTATION is given for contributions of articles, it is very much desired that shipments be packed in bags or wooden cases, not exceeding *eight (8) cubic feet* in measurement. It should be borne in mind that cases are subjected to more or less rough handling and they should be of substantial material, and when possible, properly bound with metal strips.

On account of scarcity of labor in France, the weight of cases should be limited to 100 pounds whenever possible, as such cases can be handled more promptly than heavier ones.

All non-breakable dry goods such as clothing, beds, blankets and rubber goods, bandages or similar hospital supplies should be compactly and strongly wrapped, preferably in burlap. Sugar bags, potato sacks and grocery bags, when lined with waterproof paper, will serve very well for this purpose, if in good condition.

Fragile or breakable articles or those which by leakage might damage other goods, must be securely packed in straw or excelsior in wooden boxes.

MARKING

Shipments contributed to the American Relief Clearing House, Paris, for distribution must be marked

From .....
(Name)
.....
(Address)

FOR EXPORT

To WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE,
133 Charlton Street,
New York City.

Shipments for particular consignees, comprising hospitals, relief organizations, etc., in France must be marked

From .....
(Name)
.....
(Address)

FOR EXPORT

To WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE,
133 Charlton Street,
New York City.

For .....
(Name of Consignee)
.....
(Destination)

All packages must be PLAINLY MARKED to avoid loss.

Each package should contain a detailed list of contents, and a copy of such list with notice of shipment and Bill of Lading should be mailed to the Executive Secretary of The War Relief Clearing House, 40 Wall Street, New York City. No communications, other than lists of contents, can be allowed to go forward in packages.

TRANSPORTATION.

Contributions of supplies may be forwarded by freight, express or parcel post, PREPAID to New York, marked in accordance with instructions given above. The principal express companies will accept shipments addressed to The War Relief Clearing House, New York, at two-thirds of the regular tariff rates.

The French Government and the French Line will provide free ocean transportation for War Relief Clearing House shipments consigned to the American Relief Clearing House at Paris for distribution, when packed in accordance with instructions.

To aid the Clearing House the French Government has granted the privilege of entry free from French import duties and of free transportation over French railways of articles consigned to the Clearing House.

DISTRIBUTION.

The American Relief Clearing House of Paris has inaugurated a system whereby its various investigating committees carefully determine the needs of sufferers and supervise the distribution of supplies distributed through the Clearing House.

Contributions for particular consignees, if recognized hospitals, organizations or societies, are accepted by the Clearing House for delivery as consigned; but as the American Relief Clearing House of Paris, through its investigations, knows at all times where the need for relief is most urgent, contributors are urged to leave, as far as possible, the distribution of relief supplies to the discretion of the American Relief Clearing House. Shipments of supplies cannot be accepted for delivery in France when consigned to individuals other than soldiers or those whose names stand for recognized relief work.

NOTICE.

Shipments will be forwarded on first available steamer. The War Relief Clearing House does not in any case assume liability for loss or damage to shipments, nor does it agree to insure. Upon advance request, The War Relief Clearing House will arrange for war and marine insurance at current rates, at the expense of the shipper.

EXTRACT

Letter from the Hon. WILLIAM G. SHARP

American Ambassador to France

(EXTRACT).

Letter from the Hon. WILLIAM G. SHARP,
American Ambassador to France.

Paris, 29th July, 1915.

The Honorable
The SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington.

Sir,

Referring to your telegram No. 278 of November 18th, 1914, I now have the honor to enclose a copy of the Statement of Accounts of the AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE to the 30th of June, 1915. As this report substantially covers the work of the first six months of the actual operations of this organization, it seems quite appropriate that it be at this time transmitted to the State Department, under whose authority and sanction it was created.

Even a cursory examination of this Statement shows it to be most instructive, for instead of merely dealing in a mass of dry figures usually involved in such a record, a great amount of valuable information bearing upon the relief which this Clearing House has extended to those in distress is to be found in its pages.

. . . . . .

I can with great pleasure and propriety certify to the efficiency with which this organization has carried out the work for which it was instituted. Its actual task, aside from merely laying out its plans and perfecting the organization, can be said to have only commenced with the beginning of the present year. During the following six months which are covered by the enclosed Statement of Accounts, about ten thousand cases have been received, nearly all of which, by the first day of the present month, had been distributed, while several thousand other cases are in transit from America.

The future good that this organization can accomplish would seem to depend entirely upon the amount of aid, both in money and goods, which is placed at its disposal to distribute. The service of all of its most efficient men being entirely voluntary, the cost of administration has been relatively small, thus ensuring the greatest value in returns from the contributions received. Even the money used in the actual administration of its work has been advanced by the members of the Clearing House themselves.

In thus heartily endorsing the splendid work that has been accomplished during the first half of this year, I feel that I am but performing a duty towards the members of the Clearing House, who took upon their shoulders a burden which this Embassy, owing to its largely increased amount of work, could not possibly have undertaken to do, even if it were within its proper province to have so done.

While, unfortunately, I have not found time to attend as regularly as I could have wished the various meetings of the General Committee of this organization, yet, when I have done so, I have been very much impressed with the earnest attention that has been given to the work in hand.

In transmitting this report, it has given me not only much pleasure in informing the State Department as to, the manner in which, under its telegram of instructions, the generous aid which sympathetic Americanshave sent to suffering France has been distributed by the American Relief Clearing House, but to express the earnest hope that through a continuance of that help its good work may be permitted to further succor the distressed of this land.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) WILLIAM G. SHARP.